

FINANCIAL & BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

BULLETIN

Working together to achieve economical and environmental results.



August 2013: State Fair Edition

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Comprehensive Planning - Round 7

Put your dukes up for the next round. No, it's not boxing! It's Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan Updates - Round 7. Not sure when your Planning Area's next Update is due? Check the calendar:

[7th Round Comprehensive Plan Due Dates](#)

Round 7 Comprehensive Plan Updates begin in September 2013 and run through May of 2016. Solid Waste Planning Areas due to submit plans within the next twelve months should already be working on plan updates according to IAC 567-101.13(2).

One year prior to the Comprehensive Plan Update due date, the DNR will send a letter to the Planning Area Contact regarding the Municipal Survey, starting the process. Note - Environmental Management System (EMS) Program participants may apply for a variance



DNR staffer Becky Jolly toured the Adair County Transfer Station with Delmar Frisbie, the Adair County Transfer Station manager. Becky was on-site providing technical assistance for Municipal Survey data input.

from completing the whole Comprehensive Plan Update because the EMS participants submit Annual Reports.

Are you a staff member at one of Iowa's 44 Solid Waste Planning Areas? Or do you serve on a Solid Waste agency board or City Council? No matter what your role in the world of solid waste, it may be beneficial to receive feedback about your programs. Plus - your Comprehensive Plan Update requires evidence of public participation. You can get a jump start now. There are many ways to get feedback - meetings, by phone, through a website and in person, of course. One way to get measureable feedback is through the use of a basic survey. Here are some suggestions:

- Insert surveys in city bills (like water bills).
- Send out cards listing a link to a web version of a survey
- You can do an online survey using a service like Survey Monkey (simply use a search engine online to find a FREE product)
- Send surveys to a special group of city representatives, such as mayors, city clerks, or council members

If your organization needs assistance compiling a survey, the Financial and Business Assistance (FABA) team is here to help. See the *Solid Waste and Recycling Survey Template*, under "Resources" on the [Comprehensive Planning Website](#).

DNR Contact: Leslie Goldsmith at (515) 281-8499 or Leslie.Goldsmith@dnr.iowa.gov

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Success with the Derelict Building Grant Program

Middletown

The City of Middletown was looking to remove a burdensome property (old school building) from its expense sheet and applied to the program for assistance. The City had applied for funding previously but was not funded, however they implemented the notes they received from the review committee on strengthening their application and secured funding the next time they applied. The City applied for funds to assist with costs related to an asbestos inspection. This project started in April and was completed by May. They plan on applying again for assistance with abating the asbestos that was identified from the inspection.



Emmetsburg

The City of Emmetsburg was looking to improve their downtown area. They applied and secured a federal façade grant in an attempt to renovate the exterior of 24 commercial buildings; the façade project should be completed within the next year. As part of the façade program the exterior of the buildings are slated for renovation, part of this renovation process will disturb building materials, this called for asbestos inspections for each building. The City applied to the DBGP to assist with funding these inspections. The City had negotiated easements with each building owner, this arrangement allowed the city to conduct this service without owning the buildings in question. The inspections started in late March and the DBGP project was completed by the end of May.



The Derelict Building Grant Program works with communities of 5,000 or fewer people who need assistance with addressing abandoned commercial or public buildings all while diverting construction and demolition materials from the landfill.

For more information on the program, go to the [Derelict Building Grant webpage](#).

DNR Contact: Scott Flagg at (515) 281-4876 or Scott.Flagg@dnr.iowa.gov

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Visit FABA at the Iowa State Fair

Come visit the "Cause and Effect: Your Eco Story" exhibit at the State Fair. FABA's mobile education exhibit is an all-inclusive experience that includes informative displays, interactive kiosks, educational videos and more. The exhibit will be located at the north end of the DNR Building's courtyard and open from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm each day of the fair.



The exhibit features rooms in typical home and discusses how our daily choices can impact our natural resources. The exhibit showcases:

- Sustainability
- Recycling
- Household Hazardous Materials
- Water Conservation
- Energy Conservation

Science teachers, environmental educators, recycling coordinators, event managers, community leaders and solid waste professionals are encouraged to reserve the mobile exhibit for classroom activities and special events. To learn more, or to submit a reservation form, visit the [Mobile Education Exhibit's webpage](#).

Recycling at the Fair

Recycling containers will again be placed throughout the fairgrounds this year for plastic cups and drink bottles. Please participate in diverting these valuable resources from the waste stream and put them back into the manufacturing stream. As you know, the simple act of recycling reduces energy, water and natural resource use when producing new products.

DNR Contact: Amy Wilken at (515) 281-0649 or Amy.Wilken@dnr.iowa.gov

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EMS Program Welcomes Two New Organizations

The Landfill of North Iowa and the Ottumwa-Wapello County Solid Waste Commission were designated as Environmental Management Systems (EMS) by the Environmental Protection Commission in March. As EMS participants they may now take advantage of EMS program benefits including: personalized training, reduced tonnage fees, a special pool of grant funds, and peer advice and assistance.

The two new participants join nine others in the program:

Six Tier 2 Participants: (completed training in 2010)

- Cass County Environmental Control Agency
- Cedar Rapids Linn-County Solid Waste Agency (Landfill Service Area)
- Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency
- Metro Waste Authority (Landfill Service Area)
- Rathbun Area Solid Waste Management Commission
- Waste Commission of Scott County (Landfill Service Area)

Three Tier 1 Participants: (completing training in 2013)

- Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center (Landfill Service Area)
- Northern Plains Regional Planning Area
- South Central Iowa Solid Waste Agency



The Ottumwa-Wapello County Solid Waste Commission has begun partnering with area cities and libraries in a Compact Fluorescent Tube "Adopt-A-Bin" program as part of their Environmental Management System.



Landfill of North Iowa director Bill Rowland and project consultant Cory Sander check out the electronics recycling area during the June Environmental Management System site visit.

Iowa's Solid Waste Environmental Management System (EMS) program was established in 2008 Legislation, House File 2570 as a voluntary alternative to Comprehensive Planning. The EMS program assists participants with operating in a more innovative, cost-effective, technologically advanced, and environmentally sensitive manner.

"EMS is the next step," reports Department of Natural Resources (DNR) program planner Leslie Goldsmith, "while Comprehensive Planning concentrates on landfill diversion, EMS helps participants put a system in place to improve overall environmental performance on a continuous basis." The EMS system concentrates on six component areas including yard waste management; hazardous household waste management; water quality improvement; greenhouse gas reduction; recycling; and environmental education.

The two newly designated organizations began specialized EMS training in April. DNR staff and a consultant work with participants to assist in developing the EMS and provide ongoing support to participants. Program participants must undergo an annual audit and provide annual reports documenting performance and demonstrating continuous improvement through setting environmental goals.

Planning Areas or Permitted Facility Service Areas interested in the program may apply for designation annually.

For more information on the program, go to the [EMS webpage](#).

DNR Contact: Leslie Goldsmith at (515) 281-8499
or Leslie.Goldsmith@dnr.iowa.gov

Happenings in the HHM Program

Sustainapalooza



Kathleen Hennings (DNR's Land Quality Bureau HHM Programs) and Shelly Codner (Iowa Waste Exchange) teamed up in early and late spring 2013 for a "How to Read Your Label" display at Iowa State University's Sustainapalooza, a campus wide event on sustainability and at the Des Moines Area Community College Urban campus Earth Day event.

The "How to Read Your Label" display provided visitors examples of common green and not so green household products, their corresponding material safety data sheets (MSDS) and a handy cost per ounce guide. The display provided information on what to look for on a product's label when making a purchasing decision.

Hubbell Elementary in Des Moines

Kathleen Hennings met with over 90 2nd graders at Hubbell Elementary in Des Moines in spring 2013 and introduced them to the concepts of Household Hazardous Materials through a demonstration on acids and bases and their chemical reactions. The concept was introduced through naturally occurring chemicals (found in food) and lab chemicals (found in cleaners). The students explored the concept of what an acid is by tasting the "Acidic" or "Alkaline/Base" nature of certain foods. Lemons, oranges and dark chocolate were used as the acids and bananas, raw unseasoned almonds, and milk were the alkaline/bases. Students began to grasp the concept of acid and bases and why common household products should not be played with or improperly disposed. Especially exciting to the students was when Kathleen performed a science experiment in a balloon demonstrating the effects of a chemical reaction between acids and bases. As she combined the two and the reaction occurred between her acid and base, several students were very intrigued by the subsequent "pop/explosion" of the balloon.

[Alkaline & Acidic Foods Chart: The pH Spectrum](#)



For more information on the program, go to the [HHM webpage](#).

DNR Contact: Kathleen Hennings at (515) 281-5859 or Kathleen.Hennings@dnr.iowa.gov
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Regional Collection Centers and Electronic Reporting Database

In May, the DNR sent a survey to all Regional Collection Centers (RCCs) requesting responses to several questions relating to the electronic reporting database. The survey was intended to provide feedback on what issues (if any) those completing the electronic reporting form encountered and what improvements could be made to the system to facilitate improvements in future reporting.

Overall, survey results showed the electronic reporting database was functioning well but issues of timing out during data entry, reducing the amount of data to input and general clarifications were identified and will be addressed as time allows.

In early March, six Regional Collection facilities provided material for a help manual titled "A Guide to Preparing and Submitting the Iowa DNR Regional Collection Center Semi Annual Report". This guide provides organization guidelines for RCC's to follow on a daily, weekly and monthly basis for CESQG and HHW data that must be tracked for the Semi Annual Report. The guide was distributed electronically to all RCC's on July 2, 2013. It is hoped that with these guidelines, the process of gathering required information will become easier and the reporting process more efficient.

DNR Contact: Kathleen Hennings at (515) 281-5859 or Kathleen.Hennings@dnr.iowa.gov
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Iowa Waste Exchange: Area Student Kicks Waste

When Ankeny Taekwondo student, Henry Loch, realized just how many new pine boards from his martial arts class were going into the trash and subsequently being landfilled, he knew he had to do something to change this. Henry enlisted the help of his father Robert to assist him in implementing this change.

“We break a lot of boards in our class, especially when we are testing,” stated Henry. “I just thought they could be used for something else instead of going into the garbage.”

Upon seeing how passionate Henry was regarding this issue, Robert reached out to various agencies around the Des Moines metro area, and was consequently referred to Shelly Codner with the Department of Natural Resources Iowa Waste Exchange program. Codner met with Henry and Robert to discuss the logistics of a recycling plan for the boards. They determined that the Lochs would secure the boards from Henry’s class, and when they had a large amount they would contact Codner who would subsequently distribute them to interested parties for repurposing.

“If someone was willing to take that initiative and responsibility, I thought it was a great idea,” Codner stated. “Witnessing Henry’s enthusiasm for this project made me determined to make it happen.”

Henry had researched options for the materials before the meeting with Codner, and had some ideas regarding what could be done with the wood waste. Following the meeting, Codner reached out to various woodworkers and builders, and received a reply from Luke Wright, who coincidentally works for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Wright agreed to take several of the boards, which he used to construct bird houses for various locations throughout the state.

In addition, Codner and the Lochs have heard from several other organizations that are interested in receiving boards in the future, and they will continue to collect and disseminate the broken boards as they are created.

Henry and Robert hope the project will get students interested in recycling. "I think recycling is a very good idea, stated Henry, "throwing good boards in the trash is just a waste."

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Iowa Waste Exchange: ConAgra Foods is Partnering with Feed the Hungry



Through the cooperative efforts of the Iowa Waste Exchange, ConAgra Foods and Feed the Hungry, humanitarian workers were provided with 381,466 new food trays for serving meals to tornado victims in Moore, Okla., and food-insecure individuals in Detroit, Mich.

The food trays were donated by ConAgra Foods' Council Bluffs, Iowa, plant, which makes meals for many of ConAgra Foods' frozen foods brands. Due to production changes, the plant had 40 pallets of unused plastic food trays available for reuse. Nick Babic, manager, Material Planning, reached out to Iowa Waste Exchange Area 6 resource specialist for assistance in finding a new use for the trays.

Jim Reimer, Iowa Waste Exchange, contacted David Flowers of Feed the Hungry to see if they could use the food trays for their humanitarian efforts. Feed the Hungry was happy to accept ConAgra Foods' plastic tray donation and sent the trays to be put to good use in Moore and Detroit. The cooperative efforts of the three organizations have not only helped feed individuals in need but have also utilized nearly 10 tons of material that could have gone unused.

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EMS Implementation / Certification Workshop

Pollution Prevention Services is hosting an Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Implementation/Certification Workshop on October 22 & 23, 2013 in Des Moines. This interactive workshop will draw from over 17 years of actual EMS experiences and lessons learned, bringing a practical perspective to participants. The workshop designed to provide value for:

- those without an EMS who are considering developing one to more proactively manage environmental issues;
- those in the process of developing an EMS;
- those with an EMS considering ISO 14001 certification; and
- those who are ISO 14001 certified organizations looking for ideas on continual improvement.

An EMS can help any organization reduce costs and liability while improving market position. In this workshop you will learn how an EMS can benefit your organization. The workshop will go beyond lectures to include interactive group activities for practical application of lessons. It will also provide a great networking opportunity to share success stories and lessons learned from peers and colleagues.

For more information about this workshop contact Jeff Fiagle at 515/281-5353 or jeff.fiagle@dnr.iowa.gov. An email announcement with a registration form and agenda will be forthcoming.

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Pollution Prevention Intern Program Update

Eighteen companies are teaming with the Pollution Prevention Intern Program this summer to save money while implementing environmental improvement projects. Since 2001, participating companies have saved more than 69.1

million dollars while improving environmental performance.

Host companies report that the interns provide a dedicated person to look in-depth at a system, evaluate opportunities and provide well-researched strategies for cost-effective improvements to their operations. Most companies know they have a savings opportunity but do not have time to gather and compile the data or to follow up and make it happen.

With the Pollution Prevention Intern Program, upper-level engineering students work at host companies across Iowa to quantify cost savings associated with projects such as identifying and quantifying leaks in a compressed air system, updating lighting systems with energy efficient retrofits, installing economizers on boilers, and reducing the amount of water used in processes or the amount of chemicals used in on-site treatment systems.

Several interns are identifying alternative methods for handling solid waste materials to increase reuse and recycling opportunities at their host companies and reduce the volume of waste going to the landfills. Heat recovery and free cooling projects can also provide major cost savings while reducing the impact on our natural resources.

Environmental savings since 2001 include:

- 1.2 Billion gallons of water
- 203,770 tons of waste diverted from landfills
- 1.5 million gallons and 729 tons hazardous waste
- 328.8 million kilowatt hours reduced
- 7.7 million therms reduced
- 42,817 grams of mercury abated

A list of current host companies and intern projects may be viewed at www.iowap2interns.com. Case summaries highlighting the results of these projects will be posted to the website in late September.

Companies may submit projects now to be considered for the 2014 Pollution Prevention Intern Program. Project request forms are available on the website or companies may contact the program coordinator at Danielle.Dilks@dnr.iowa.gov for assistance with developing or prioritizing projects at their facility. Twelve-week projects in 2014 will run from May 27-August 8 or May 27 - November 7 for 24-week projects.

DNR Contact: Danielle Dilks at (515) 281-8063 or Danielle.Dilks@dnr.iowa.gov

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Project Aware 2013

The 11th annual Project Aware recently concluded after a week on the East Fork of the Des Moines River, the Des Moines River and on the Boone River covering over 90 miles. Project AWARE which stands for A Watershed Awareness River Expedition, involves hundreds of volunteers who spend their vacations and free time working as aquatic garbage and recycling collectors - cleaning up, learning about, and exploring Iowa's rivers.



Project AWARE Objectives:

- Increase awareness about, and community involvement in, water quality issues that impact the health of Iowa's aquatic resources.
- Engage Iowa's citizen volunteers in a project that challenges them to become stewards of the river and produces a tangible, quantitative result.
- Demonstrate the commitment of Iowa's citizens by giving of themselves and their valuable time to make a difference - one stretch of river, one piece of trash at a time.

During this year's event, 343 volunteers participated throughout the week with a daily average of 156. The volunteers recovered the following for recycling and proper disposal:

- 9,140 pounds of scrap tires
- 21 tons of scrap metal
- 2,970 pounds of plastic and other common recyclables
- 1.5 tons of household hazardous materials
- 4 tons of trash

The Solid Waste Alternatives Program provided a small stipend in support of Project AWARE and the volunteers for removing these materials from Iowa waterways and proper management.

For more information about Project Aware,
visit <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Recreation/CanoeingKayaking/ProjectAWARE.aspx>
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SWAP Success: Briar Cliff University is Greening Their Campus

Briar Cliff University, located in Sioux City, is taking significant steps toward greening their campus through implementing a variety of sustainable waste reduction and waste management initiatives across campus.

In 2011, The Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team developed a Green Campus Advisory Board consisting of the University President, maintenance director, and representatives of faculty, staff, the library, the IT center and students. The Board institutionalized a campus-wide recycling program for the collection of aluminum, paper, cardboard, and plastic containers generated on their campus. Over 200 recycling containers have been distributed across the campus.

The recycling project consists of 3 elements:

1. Placing recycling containers;
2. Sustainable support from students, faculty, administration and maintenance; and
3. Education efforts to help ensure correct and frequent use of the recycling containers.



Recycling pledge cards



Recycling containers in residence halls

Next, the University's Green Campus Advisory Board focused its attention on

reducing the amount of office paper waste. In the fall of 2011, 500 students and 50 faculty received iPads as a means of reducing the amount of printing and photocopy paper waste. The successful pilot project led to expanding the pilot project. Additionally in 2012, the University provided faculty and students a software application designed to facilitate importing and exporting documents, including email, Dropbox.com, Google Docs, etc. A scanning system was also placed in the library, replacing photocopiers, that has led to a significant reduction in paper waste. These two actions have led to an 88% reduction in library photocopies.

The next step in Briar Cliff University's desire to provide a green and sustainable campus for faculty, staff, students and visitors is the strategic placement of cold, filtered water refilling stations. In all, eleven fountains will offer refilling opportunities. In the past year over 1,870 pounds of plastic water bottles were recycled with more bottles thrown in the trash. Beginning the fall 2013, incoming first year students will receive a school logoed, BPA free reusable water bottle. Additional water bottles will be offered as prizes during the University's annual "Green-A-Thon" week to returning students.

The above initiatives, which were funded by the Solid Waste Alternatives Program, have resulted in nearly 30 tons of material being recovered for recycling. The water bottle refilling station project will be yet another factor in moving Briar Cliff University toward a sustainable, green campus.

For more information on the program, go to the [SWAP webpage](#).

DNR Contact: Tom Anderson at (515) 281-8623 or Tom.Anderson@dnr.iowa.gov or Amy Wilken at (515) 281-0649 or Amy.Wilken@dnr.iowa.gov

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SWAP Success: Single Stream Recycling at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids

Mercy Medical Center is seeing a drastic reduction in the amount of materials being sent to the landfill and in disposal costs by implementing a new single stream recycling program throughout their main campus in Cedar Rapids.

Mercy Medical Center's Environmental Concerns Committee and their Environmental Services staff implemented a single stream recycling program coupled with the purchase and operation of a self-contained dual compactor (recyclables and solid waste). The state of the art dual compactor provides sufficient capacity to process larger volumes of recyclable materials while maintaining necessary capacity for the non-recyclable material generated daily.



This is the split compactor.

Distributing recycling containers.

The previous source separated recycling program was limited by available space for sorting containers and limited space for a centralized collection and separation area. The dual compactor has allowed the number of recycling pulls to be cut from 4 to 2 times per month and has allowed new recyclables to be collected. Mercy Medical Center recycled more than 41 tons over the first year of operation. Clean plastic, newspaper, magazines, tin cans, water bottles, chip board, office paper, cardboard, plastic wrap and sterile wrap from surgical procedures is being recycled under the new program.

Funding for the program was provided by Mercy Medical Center, the DNR's Solid Waste Alternatives Program and Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency. Recyclables are transported to City Carton Company for final processing and marketing.

For more information on the program, go to the [SWAP webpage](#).

DNR Contact: Tom Anderson at (515) 281-8623 or Tom.Anderson@dnr.iowa.gov or Amy Wilken at (515) 281-0649 or Amy.Wilken@dnr.iowa.gov

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