



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 15, 2020

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## Handling fall leaves — easy and educational

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Christine Paulson at [Christine.Paulson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Christine.Paulson@dnr.iowa.gov) (for quick response) or 515-725-9510.

DES MOINES --Fall leaves are beautiful – until they pile up in your yard. But don't send those precious nutrients up in smoke. Instead, put them to good use. Your leaves, branches and other landscape materials can nourish your lawn, garden or community. It's as easy as 1 – 2 – 3:

### 1. **Compost.**

Composting leaves and food scraps is a great way to turn this waste into nutrients for your garden. It's also a great way to get kids outside, learning practical hands-on science. They can start by researching the many types and sizes of compost containers. (For tips on low-tech ways to compost, see a [DNR tutorial](#).) Managing the compost pile provides exercise and a learning opportunity. A good compost mix needs both carbon (dead or dry leaves) and nitrogen (green materials like food scraps and grass clippings). Carry the project forward to spring, and use finished compost to enrich the soil and gardens.

### 2. **Mulching.**

Your lawn will love you if you chop up and leave your leaves in place. Leaves are a free and natural fertilizer and they add organic matter to enrich your soil. Use your regular lawn mower. Or use a mulching lawn mower to shred and mix leaves and grass into your yard.

### 3. **Bag it.**

If you have too many leaves or branches to compost, check with your community to see if they collect yard waste or have a drop-off site. Sometimes there's a fee,

but the upside is that anyone can pick up composted materials for their yards or gardens.

Burning leaves seems to capture the smell of autumn. But breathing [leaf smoke](#) pulls pollutants such as carbon monoxide, soot and toxic chemicals into your lungs. While it may smell good, smoke is especially harmful to children, the elderly and those with respiratory problems such as asthma. Turning leaves into nutrients is the healthy way to protect your and your neighbor's lungs.

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## DNR enforcement actions

**MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242**  
or [Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tamara.McIntosh@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES – DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the DNR issues enforcement actions. The following list summarizes recent enforcement actions. Find the entire, original orders on DNR's website at [www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions](http://www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions).

### Amendments

#### Scott County

Arconic Davenport, LLC

Comply with original Section V. ORDER, paragraph 2 by Nov. 1, 2022.

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## Air Quality permits under review

**MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-725-9525**  
or [Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov) for Title V permits; or Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or [Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Sarah.Piziali@dnr.iowa.gov) for construction permits.

DES MOINES – The DNR Air Quality Bureau has the following draft permits up for review. The permits help protect Iowans' health and air quality. DNR's permitting staff review each permit application to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality requirements. We encourage public comments on draft permits, providing help on how to [make effective comments](#). Submit written comments to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. DNR considers public comments before finalizing the permits.

### Title V Operating Permits

Title V Operating permits are reviewed and re-issued every five years. Facilities with a Title V permit have the potential to emit large amounts of air pollutants compared to other facilities. The five-year reviews are a federal requirement and ensure adequate monitoring is included in the permit. The DNR plans to issue Title V Operating Permits for the following facilities. Find permit details at [www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft](http://www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft).

### **Johnson County**

Loparex LLC – 2000 Industrial Park Road, Iowa City.

The application was submitted to operate their existing Coated and Laminated Paper facility. The public comment period ends Nov. 14.

### **Construction Permits**

DNR engineers review and issue construction permits to facilities before they build new or modify existing sources of air pollution. The public may review the following air quality construction permits available online at [www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch](http://www.iowadnr.gov/airpermitsearch) OR through the [EASY Air Public Inquiry Portal](#) and then click the Public Notice tab.

### **Webster County**

Cargill, Inc. – 1950 Harvest Avenue, Fort Dodge.

Project No. 20-257, Installation of a new baghouse with better air-to-cloth ratio, replacing the existing dust collector. The public comment period ends Nov. 17.

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## **A note on Iowa DNR and COVID-19**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is working with state and local officials to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and has transitioned employees to work remotely. DNR offices are closed to the public during this time and only available by appointment.

In another effort to further reduce the spread of COVID-19, the DNR is encouraging the use of the online services for submitting applications, payments and other daily tasks and interaction with DNR staff.

- [Full list of DNR's online services](#)
- [Up-to-date information on DNR services, facilities and events impacted by COVID-19](#)
- [Technical information for regulated businesses in regards to COVID-19](#)

We thank you for your patience and flexibility during this time. If you need to contact DNR staff you can reach them by email or phone or by calling 515-725-8200.