



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 14, 2017

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## DNR releases 2017 Iowa Statewide Waste Characterization Study; food waste and plastics top the list

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Tom Anderson, DNR, at 515-725-8323  
or [tom.anderson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:tom.anderson@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES — A recently released study shows what Iowans are throwing away, and what could be spared from the landfill.

That includes a lot of wasted food – 556,313 tons, to be exact. Wasted food accounted for 20 percent of the landfilled materials in the 2017 Iowa Statewide Waste Characterization Study, a 50 percent increase from the last study in 2011. The study, conducted about every six years, looks at what types of trash, recyclables and compostables Iowans send to the landfill.

For the study, materials received at 15 Iowa landfills and solid waste transfer stations were sorted into 61 separate categories within nine separate material types, with distinctions made between residential trash and industrial and commercial waste.

The second most landfilled item, plastic film, wrap and bags, increased by 15 percent over findings from 2011. However, the amount of corrugated cardboard reaching the landfill dropped by about 50 percent since the last study.

The study also looked at the economic impact of increased diversion of recyclable paper, plastic, metal and glass that are commonly collected through curbside and drop-off recycling programs. Based on regional market prices at the time of the study (October 2017), the value of the common recyclable paper and containers Iowans are landfilling is more than \$60 million.

“Should these materials be diverted, processed and sold to the manufacturing sector for the production of new products, it’s estimated nearly 6,000 jobs could be created,” said Tom Anderson with the DNR’s Land Quality Bureau.

Findings from the reports are used to identify potential initiatives and programs to reduce the amount of waste generated and to reduce the amount of waste headed to landfills. Funding for the study comes from a portion of the solid waste tonnage fee through the Solid Waste Alternatives Program.

The full report can be found at [www.iowadnr.gov/FABA](http://www.iowadnr.gov/FABA) under Studies & Reports.

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## Counties must sign up soon to evaluate animal confinement sites

**MEDIA CONTACT: Kelli Book at 515-725-9572 or [Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov).**

DES MOINES – Counties interested in evaluating construction permits for proposed animal feeding facilities must adopt and submit a construction evaluation resolution to the DNR between Jan. 1 and 31.

About 87 counties pass a resolution each year, which allows them to review construction permit applications required for larger totally roofed animal feeding operations (confinements).

Producers in counties that file the resolutions must meet higher standards for a construction permit than sites in other counties. They must earn points on a master matrix by choosing a site and using practices that reduce effects on the environment and the community.

The Master Matrix development, submittal and approval process allows applicants and county supervisors to discuss options for site selection, facility type and management. The county submits a recommendation to the DNR on the permit application after reviewing the master matrix items the applicant selected.

Counties that participate in the master matrix process may accompany DNR on site visits to proposed locations. The county board of supervisors may also appeal the DNR’s preliminary approval of a permit to the Environmental Protection Commission.

County boards of supervisors may approve the resolutions at any time, but must submit resolutions between Jan. 1 and 31, 2018. Send resolutions to Kelli Book at DNR, 502 E. Ninth St., Des Moines, IA 50319, email to [Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Kelli.Book@dnr.iowa.gov) or fax to 515-725-8201. Sign-ups in January apply to permit applications received from February 2018 through January 2019.

For historical information on counties that adopted resolutions, check the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.gov/afo](http://www.iowadnr.gov/afo) and search for [master matrix](#).

More information is available from the Iowa State Association of Counties at [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org).

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## Abnormally dry conditions return to Iowa following little rain in November

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Tim Hall, 515-725-8298, [Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Tim.Hall@dnr.iowa.gov).

DES MOINES — For the first time since September, abnormally dry conditions have returned to the state following a dry November, according to the latest Water Summary Update from the Iowa DNR.

Iowa received only 0.43 inches of precipitation in November, much below the normal of 2.05 inches. However, streamflow levels are running at close to normal across much of Iowa. Groundwater conditions remain good in most locations, with the exception of southeastern Iowa, where levels are rated in slight drought conditions.

"This ranks as the 15th lowest November total for precipitation among 145 years of records and the lowest calendar month total for any month since November 2007," says Tim Hall, the DNR's Hydrology Resources Coordinator.

For a thorough review of Iowa's water resource trends, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate](http://www.iowadnr.gov/watersummaryupdate).

The report is prepared by technical staff from Iowa DNR, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering, and the U.S. Geological Survey, in collaboration with Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department.

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## DNR Air Quality offices moving December 19

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Jim McGraw at 515-725-9543 or [Jim.McGraw@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Jim.McGraw@dnr.iowa.gov).

WINDSOR HEIGHTS—After 21 years in Windsor Heights, the DNR's Air Quality Bureau is returning to the Wallace Building near the state capitol.

Find the bureau on the second floor of 502 E Ninth St, Des Moines IA 50319. Visitors will need to check in first on the fourth floor at the reception desk.

The bureau works to protect public health and grow Iowa's economy by working with regulated facilities to ensure they meet state and federal clean air requirements.

Staff phone numbers and emails will remain the same after the move but staff availability will be limited during the move Dec. 19 and 20.

Starting Dec. 21, call the DNR general reception number of 515-725-8200 instead of the disconnected Air Quality mainline. The Air Quality fax number, 515-725-9501, and the toll-free permitting hotline, 877-AIR-IOWA, are still available.

DNR's Des Moines area field office, Field Office 5, will remain at 7900 Hickman Rd. Some Environmental Protection Commission meetings and larger stakeholder meetings will meet at the Hickman location.

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## **DNR enforcement actions**

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Ed Tormey, DNR, at 515-725-8373 or [Ed.Tormey@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Ed.Tormey@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/InsideDNR/AboutDNR/EnforcementActions.aspx](http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/AboutDNR/EnforcementActions.aspx).

### **Consent Orders**

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

#### **Calhoun County**

Jeff Kirchoff

Revocation of drinking water and wastewater certifications.

#### **Dallas County**

City of Linden

Pay \$1,000 penalty for failure to timely file for renewal of NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit.

### **Administrative Orders**

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

#### **Muscatine County**

Cheryl & Terry Honts

Amendment to Administrative Order No. 2017-UT-08: Inability to pay determination.