



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# EcoNewsWire

## Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 1, 2018

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## Top three ways to handle fall leaves

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

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. Composting leaves and food scraps is a great way to turn this waste into nutrients for your garden. A good compost mix needs both carbon (dead or dry leaves) and nitrogen (green materials like food scraps and grass clippings). Many types and sizes of compost containers are available. For tips on low-tech ways to compost, see a [DNR tutorial](#).
2. 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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## Air Quality permits under review

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Lori Hanson, DNR, at 515-725-9525 or [Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Lori.Hanson@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 the air where we live. DNR's permitting staff review the applications to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality standards. The public has the right and is encouraged to comment on draft permits. DNR considers [public comments](#) before finalizing the permits. Submit comments in writing to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the public comment period.

### Construction Permits

DNR engineers review and issue construction permits to facilities before they build new or modified 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).

**Johnson County** The University of Iowa – Iowa City. Project No. 18-222, Modification of Plant-wide Applicability Limit (PAL) permits to update emission unit lists and stack testing requirements.

The public comment period ends December 3.

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## Compliance actions

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

**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.

**Decatur County**

Jerry Wineland

Dispose of all solid waste; submit proof of disposal; and pay an administrative penalty of \$2,250.00

**Dickinson County**

Denny Winterboer

Comply with the solid waste rules and pay an administrative penalty of \$1,850.00

**Howard County**

Grover Farms, Inc

Pay an administrative penalty of \$2,500

**Administrative Orders**

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

**Dickinson County**

Denny Winterboer/Jerry Voss

Rescission of Administrative Order 2018-AQ-12/2018-SW-05.

**Lyon County**

Joshua Van Der Weide

Amendment to Administrative Order 2008-AFO-04. Remove penalty assessment