



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 10, 2021

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Top three ways to handle fall leaves

DES MOINES -- Fall leaves are beautiful – until they pile up in your yard. Don't send those precious nutrients up in smoke. Instead, put those nuisance leaf piles to good use. Leaves, small branches and other landscape materials can nourish your lawn, garden or community. It's easy:

1. **Compost.** Composting leaves and food scraps is a great way to turn this waste into garden nutrients. 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. **Mulch.** Your lawn will love you if you chop up and leave your leaves in place. Leaves are a free, natural fertilizer that enriches your soil with organic matter. You can 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.

For some, burning leaves seems to capture the nostalgic 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 or heart problems. Turning leaves into nutrients is the healthy way to protect your and your neighbor's lungs.

DNR enforcement actions

MEDIA CONTACT: Tamara McIntosh, DNR, at 515-725-8242
or 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.

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.

Keokuk County

Dietrich Hauling & Fence Building, Inc.

Handle, transfer and land apply manure in a manner that does not result in a manure discharge to a water of the state; develop a standard operating procedure for proper manure transportation and land application, and submit for approval; immediately implement the standard operating procedure upon approval; and pay a \$1,000 administrative penalty.

Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: Marnie Stein, DNR, at 515-725-9525 or Marnie.Stein@dnr.iowa.gov for Title V permits; or Sarah Piziali, DNR, at 515-725-9549 or 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.

Black Hawk County

MidAmerican Energy Co. – Electriform Turbines – 3051 W. Shaulis Road., Waterloo. The application was submitted to operate their existing electric services facility. The public comment period ends Dec. 11.

Johnson County

MidAmerican Energy Co. – Coralville Turbines – 401 First Ave., Coralville.

The application was submitted to operate their existing electric services facility. The public comment period ends Dec. 11.

Webster County

Valero Fort Dodge Plant – 1930 Hayes Ave., Fort Dodge.

The application was submitted to operate their existing dry mill ethanol (SIC 2869) facility. The public comment period ends Dec. 11.

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 OR through the [EASY Air Public Inquiry Portal](#) and then click the Public Notice tab.

Story County

Iowa State University – Power Plant – 220 Power Plant Building, Ames.

Project No. 21-294, Iowa State University – the power plant currently operates Boilers 1 and 2 under permit number 07-A-923-P5. These boilers are rated at 235 MMBtu/hr. each. Both boilers currently combust coal and are vented through Emission Point S, the tall stack on campus. In this project, ISU proposes converting the boilers from coal to burn natural gas. Coal will no longer be a supported fuel for the boilers and all coal handling equipment will be removed from the campus. The public comment period runs from Nov. 11 to Dec. 12. Submit all comments in writing before 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 12.



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