



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Consider composting your holiday food waste

MEDIA CONTACT: Tom Anderson, DNR, at 515-240-6059 or tom.anderson@dnr.iowa.gov.

DES MOINES — It's a New Year's resolution you can use – no purchase necessary.

If you find yourself with a bit more food waste than usual from holiday cooking and baking, composting can be an easy and sustainable way to discard scraps. The best part is, it can be done right in your kitchen or backyard.

Composting helps reduce greenhouse gasses emitted by decomposing food in landfills, of which organics and food waste are a large part.

According to the 2022 Statewide Materials Characterization Study, food is the most wasted material being landfilled by weight. Food waste accounts for about 19.2% of all material being landfilled – 14.2% of that being loose food and 4.6% packaged.



Kitchen composting usually involves just one non-organic component – a large, ideally recyclable, container with a lid. That container can be tucked anywhere, from on top of the kitchen counter to under the sink or in a garage. Tom Anderson with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' Land Quality Bureau uses an old plastic gallon ice cream tub.

While you're cooking a meal or baking, you can deposit egg shells, vegetable and fruit peelings and cuttings directly into the container. You can also compost plate scrapings, coffee grounds, filters and some tea bags. Be careful to keep bones and dairy out of the bin – those items could attract unwanted critters.

Producing organics like fruits and vegetables requires a significant amount of resources and energy, as well as time and money for transportation and labor. Composting can help make sure those efforts aren't wasted.

"Composting sounds simple, but it has a huge impact," Anderson said.

You can do a few things with your compost. If you have a yard, you can use a large plastic bin to collect compost, including yard waste, over the course of a few months and add decomposed organics to a garden.

“Finished compost does wonders for the quality of your garden soil or lawn,” Anderson said.

Iowa has a [few composting facilities](#) and some communities may have food waste drop-off programs or offer curbside composting services. You can also find online whether your community or an organization offers a subscription service that will pick up your organics.

More information on backyard composting can be found on the DNR’s website at iowadnr.gov.



Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: Peter Zayudis, DNR, at 515-201-4596 or Peter.Zayudis@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.

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.

Clinton County

ADM Clinton Bioprocessing – 410 18th Ave S, Clinton.

Project No. 22-204, ADM Clinton Bioprocessing (ADM) is proposing to construct a new production line. The process will create a new protein product named “Spiber” through fermentation. ADM will use their existing fermenters in the bioprocessing plant and add new equipment to isolate, purify, package and ship the product and the byproduct. A virtual public hearing is scheduled for January 27, 2023 from 12 PM to 2 PM CST. To register for the public hearing, use the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlvf-GrqT8tG9PzvSwe9xQiAb_-dp0uqKD5. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting virtually or by phone.

The public comment period ends January 27, 2023.