Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Leading Iowans in caring for our natural resources

Recycling Policy Study Committee

"Overview and Comparison of Recycling Policies"

Alex Moon, Land Quality Bureau Chief

Overview

- ❑ Recycling and Waste Reduction Policies
- ❑ Programs Created as a Result of Policies
- ❑ Recent Legislative Initiatives
- ❑ Emerging Recycling Initiatives

Enabling Legislation

1987 Groundwater Protection Act

1989 Waste Reduction & Recycling Act

1987 Groundwater Protection Act

- State Policy
  - Reduced reliance on land disposal
  - Waste management hierarchy established
- Cities and counties required to prepare integrated solid waste management comprehensive plans
  - Plans must reflect policy and hierarchy
- Set state solid waste tonnage fee at current rate of $4.25/ton (retainage vs. remittance)
  - Used to establish Solid Waste Account & related programs

Tonnage Fee Distribution

Fees remitted to DNR are placed in the solid waste account of the Groundwater Protection Fund for DNR Operations and Statewide Program Support.

74¢	DNR Operations, including • $8,000 - Dept. of Health Transfer • Solid Waste Permitting • Solid Waste Comprehensive Planning • Special Waste Authorization • Solid waste activities at Field Offices • Solid waste Legal Services
25¢	Iowa Waste Reduction Center (IWRC)
10¢	Iowa Waste Exchange; includes $30,000 to IWRC for technical support
5¢	Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Regional Collection Centers (establish new RCCs)
15¢	RCC Collection and Transportation (reimbursement to RCCs for disposal costs)
13¢	Natural Resource Geographic Information System
5¢	Iowa Economic Development Authority (Recycle Iowa Office)
8¢	Pollution Prevention Services Program
$1.55	

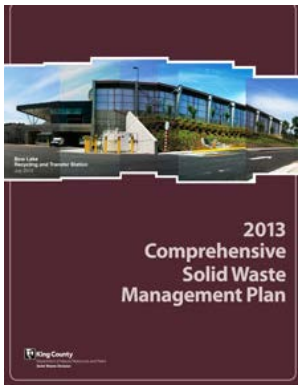
Remainder of the remitted fee is used for:

- $50,000 for Special Waste Authorization Program
- $165,000 Iowa Waste Exchange
- Solid Waste Alternatives Financial Assistance Program

1989 Waste Reduction & Recycling Act

- Established state waste reduction & recycling goals
  - Reduce waste landfilled (1988 base-year)
    - 25% by July 1, 1994
    - 50% by July 1, 2000
- Directed DNR to establish a statewide waste reduction & recycling network
- Established landfill bans
  - yard waste
  - waste oil & filters
  - lead-acid batteries
  - scrap tires
  - appliances
  - deposit beverage containers

Programs as a result of Groundwater Protection Act



University of Northern Iowa
Iowa Waste Reduction Center

pollution prevention services

Household Hazardous Materials

IOWA economic development

Recycle Iowa Office

Created from Waste Reduction & Recycling Act

(mostly a result of landfill bans in Act)

Comprehensive planning

Bottle Bill

Composting

Appliance recycling

Battery recycling

Scrap tire recycling

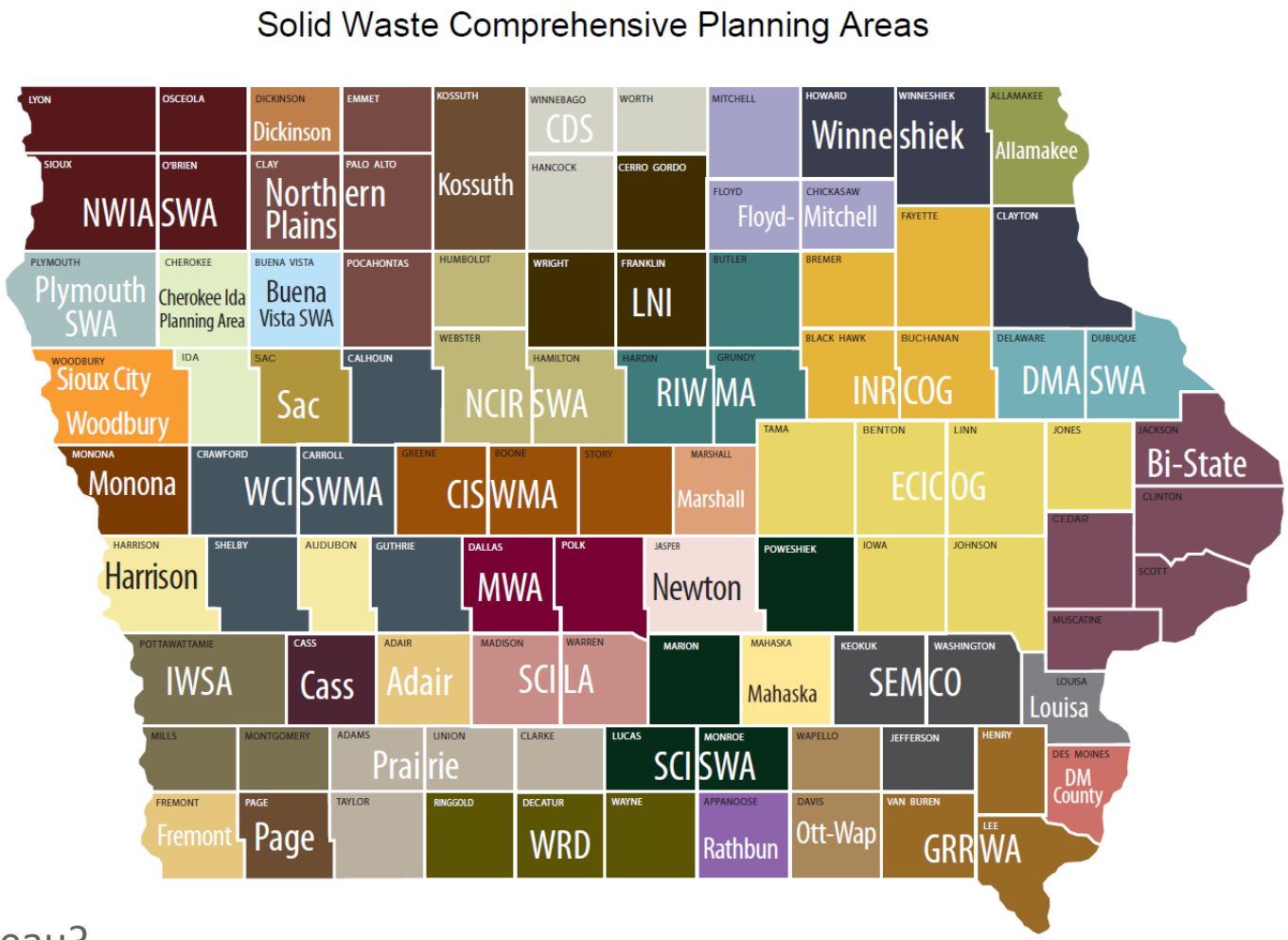
Electronics recycling

Oil and filter recycling

Measuring Success: State's Landfill Diversion Progress

- 44 PAs
- 23 > 25%
  (4 > 50%)
- 21 < 25%

Have we hit a plateau?



Measuring Success

- 664 communities with access to curbside recycling serving more than 2,000,000 Iowans
- 808 drop-off recycling locations available around the state
- Since 1990, Iowa Waste Exchange has matched over 3.5 million tons, saving Iowans slightly over $82.7 million by diverting waste from landfills
- Established a statewide network of HHM RCCs keeping 7 million lbs. of HHMs out of Iowa landfills each year
  - 424,083 lbs. of that reused through RCC SWAP shops
- Since 1987, SWAP program has awarded more than $28,000,000 and kept more than 16,000,000 tons out of landfills
- P2 program helping businesses in Iowa implement savings of more than $71 million by reducing waste as well and energy and water use

State's Waste Diversion Methodology: Is It Time for a New Metric(s)?

Formula I

$$100\% - \left[\frac{G}{A\left[\frac{H}{C} + \frac{\left[\frac{I}{D} + \frac{J\frac{F}{K}}{E}\right]}{2}\right] + B\left[\frac{I}{D} + \frac{\left[J\frac{F}{K}\right]}{E}\right]}{2} \right] \times 100\%$$

- Toxicity reduction (HHM program) – lack of credit in formula
- Anti-illegal dumping / burning bans "penalize" planning areas
  - More waste ends up in the landfill
- 50% goal "ceiling" with no incentive to go beyond
- Is landfill diversion **the** proper measure for assessing success of **integrated** waste management systems?

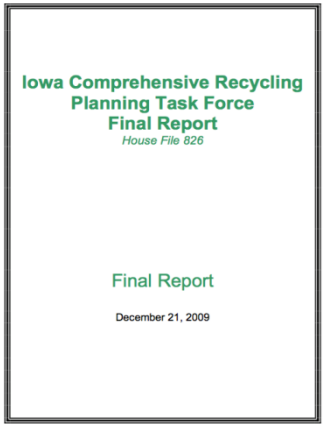
New Legislative Initiatives

(within the last 10 years)

- 2008: Solid Waste Environmental Management Systems (EMS)
- 2009: Comprehensive Recycling Task Force
- 2011: Derelict Building Grant Program

SOLID WASTE Environmental Management System

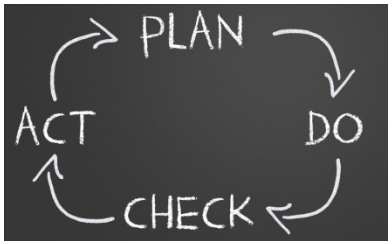
Committed to Continuous Improvement


Iowa Comprehensive Recycling Planning Task Force
Final Report
House File 826

Final Report

December 21, 2009

What is an Environmental Management System (EMS)?

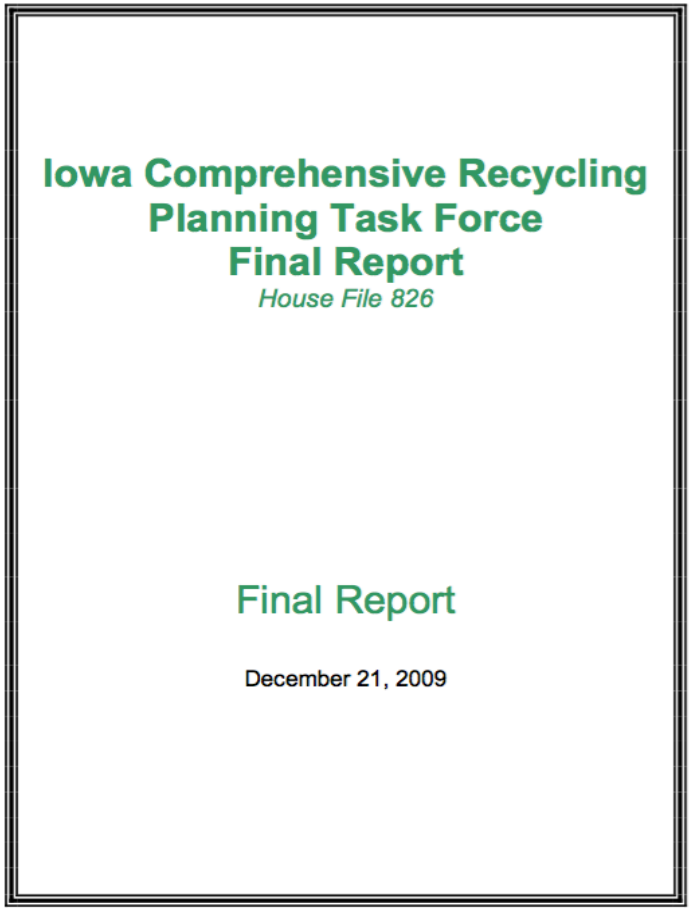


- Voluntary program as an alternative to traditional comprehensive planning
- Concept allows solid waste planning areas to set their own continuous improvement goals and be recognized for their efforts in doing so
- Results not tied to waste diversion percentage goal
- Each organization challenges itself to improve in 6 targeted environmental areas:

  - Yard Waste Management
  - Hazardous Household Materials
  - Water Quality Improvement
  - Greenhouse Gas Reduction
  - Recycling
  - Environmental Education

Comprehensive Recycling Planning Task Force

- 31 voting members appointed by Governor
- 4 non-voting legislative members
  - Sen. Dennis Black
  - Sen. Merlin Bartz
  - Rep. Chris Hagenow
  - Rep. Donovan Olson
- By 1/1/10 submit report to GA with "recommendations for creating and enhancing comprehensive sustainable recycling programs"



Task Force Recommendations

① Develop and implement a statewide Green Certification Program designed to reach the largest number of sectors possible

② Create a Green Advisory Committee

③ Develop a Recycling Vendor and Resource Green List

④ Develop and implement an ongoing, statewide communication and outreach educational resource program for all sectors

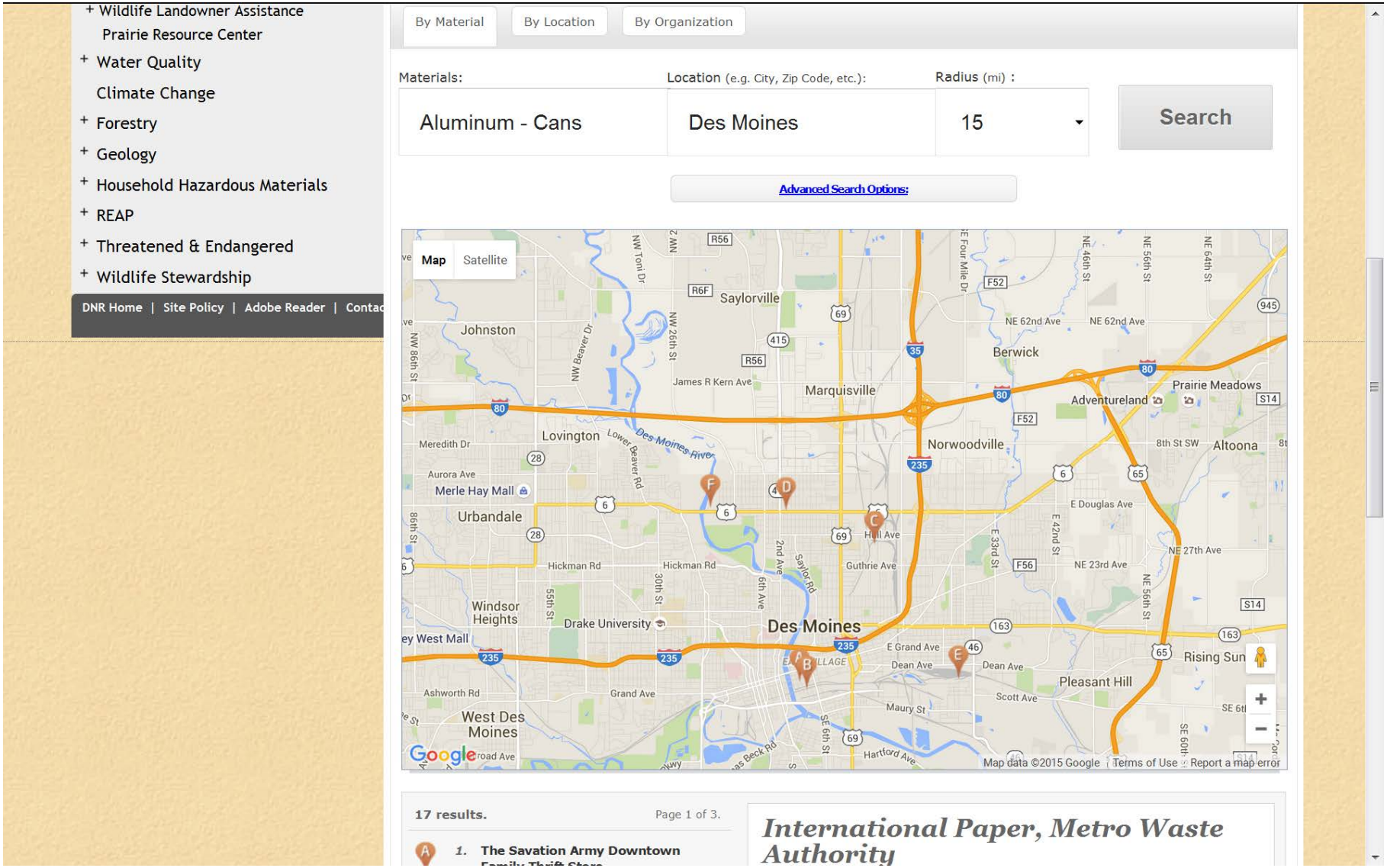
⑤ Utilize the organizations and members from this task force when moving forward with recommendations

The Iowa Greenlist

- Green Advisory Committee highlighted several items including the need for an on-line option for the public and businesses alike to find recycling, reuse, and disposal options all in one place

- An on-line recycling directory that can be used by searching for a specific location, type of material or organization

The Iowa Greenlist



The Derelict Building Grant Program

Through a competitive process, financial assistance is available for projects meeting the intent of SWAP to divert waste from landfills, with an emphasis on waste abatement, material reuse, deconstruction, renovation and recycling

- Rural communities of 5,000 or fewer
- Local government entity must own or intend to own property
- $400,000 available each year
- Deconstruction vs. Demolition
- Asbestos abatement
- Renovation

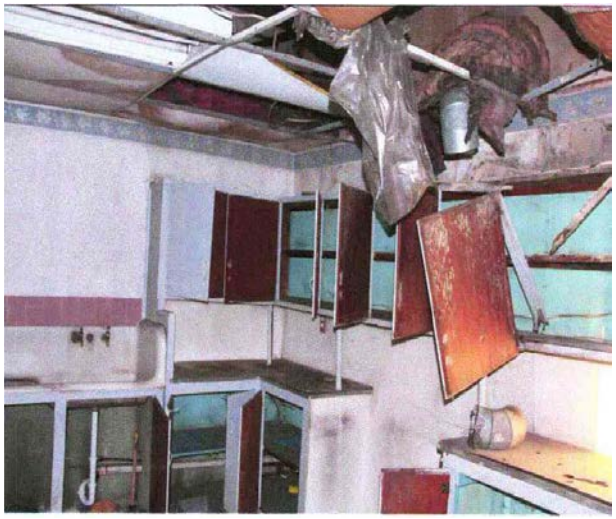
City of Slater

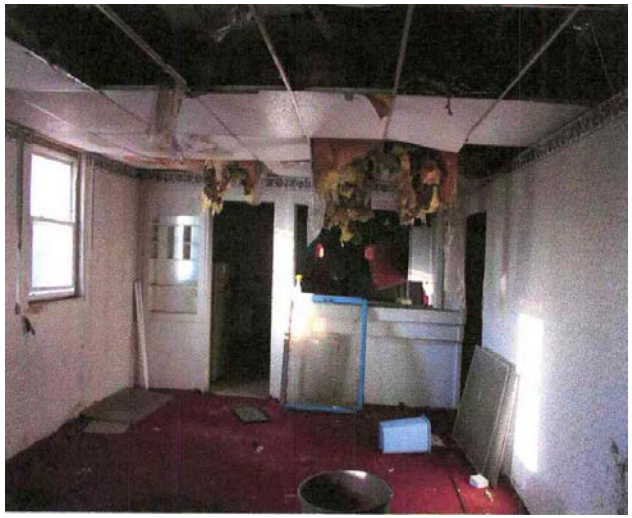
City of Slater

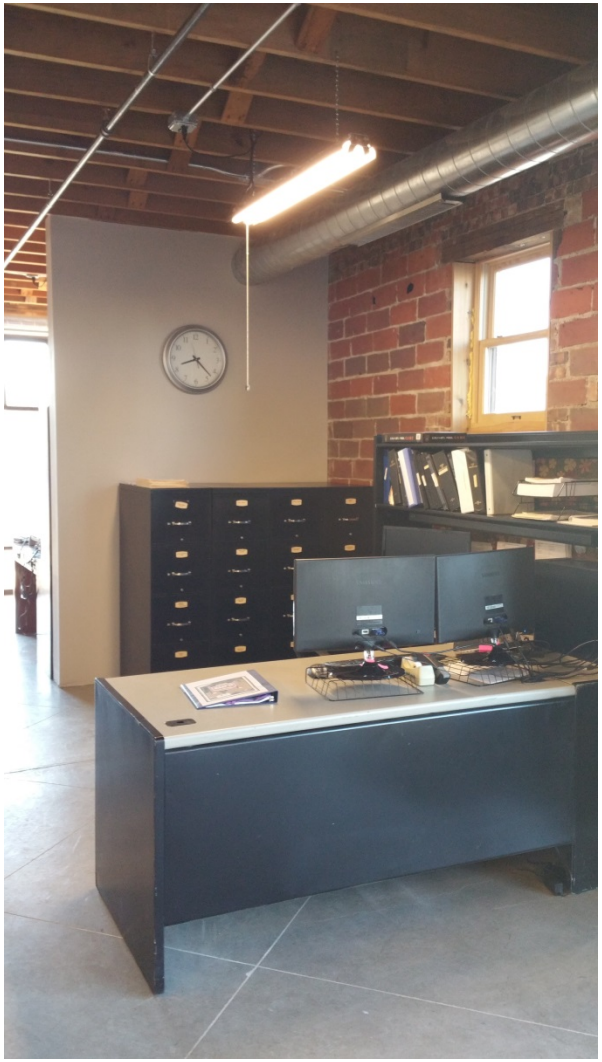
Front - from the corner of Main and Story

City of Slater

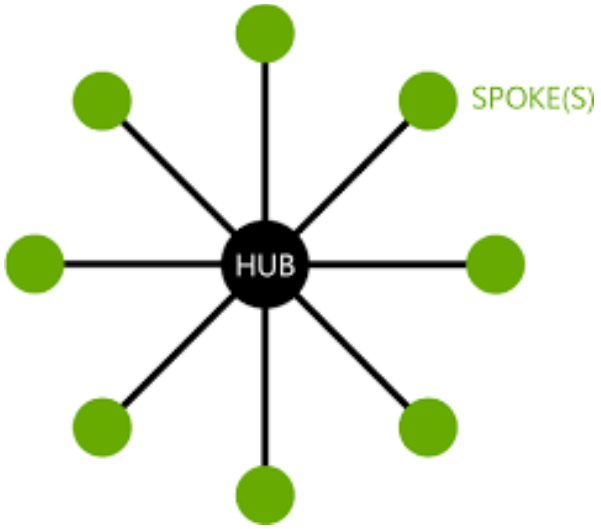
City of Slater







Emerging Initiatives



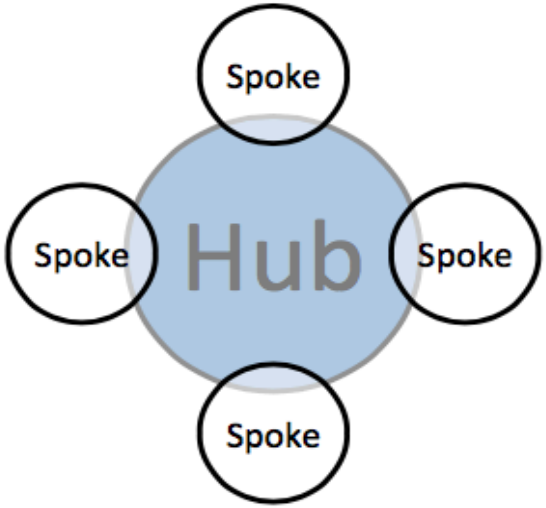
Hub & Spoke Recycling

Food Waste

Hub and Spoke System

Rural Recycling Barriers and Incentives

Barriers	Incentives
Limited Volumes	Job Creation
Dispersed Population	Landfill Tip Fee Savings
Unavailable Capital for Investments	Material Sales Revenue at Hubs
Historic Dependence on Disposal	Transportation Efficiencies



Hub & Spoke

- Achieves economy of scale
- Efficiency as focus
- Provides access
- Maximizes material value
- Provides regionally consistent program
- Utilizes replicable concept

Food Waste

Food waste is the most landfilled material (*by weight*) entering Iowa's landfills:

- More than 96 % of unwanted food is landfilled according to EPA
- The average American wastes over 225 pounds of edible food each year

Yet at the same time:

- 1 in 8 Iowans are food insecure
- 1 in 5 Iowa children do not have enough to eat

Food Waste

Several SWAP projects and partnerships are underway:

- ❑ Eat Greater Des Moines
  - App development to facilitate connection between food donors, food donation recipients
- ❑ Iowa Food Bank Association
  - Increase ability to accept donations, “Good Samaritan Act”
  - Local grants for refrigerators and freezers increasing cold storage capabilities

Food Waste

University of Northern Iowa
Iowa Waste Reduction Center

http://iwrc.uni.edu/services/food-waste/

[food waste resources]

Outlet Map

Search near you for locations of pantries, food banks, compost facilities, biodigesters and more.

Regulations

Learn about the regulations regarding composting, donations and more in a summarized form.

Case Studies

Read what Iowa businesses and organizations are doing in the fight against food waste.

Vendors

Find reduction supplies vendors including compost supplies, haulers, tracking software and more.

Stats

How much food is wasted? What is its effect on energy? Check out Food Waste by the Numbers.

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