

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS & COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Thirteen Solid Waste Agencies and Permitted Facility Service Areas take part in the Solid Waste Environmental Management System (EMS) Program. EMS is a voluntary alternative to the traditional Solid Waste Comprehensive Planning system required by Iowa Code. The EMS program was created in 2008 to allow participants to set local goals while utilizing a management framework that emphasizes continual improvement. Participants set goals in six environmental “component” areas:

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

Each goal must have a targeted outcome. As action steps are taken to reach the goal, results are documented and are used to determine whether or not targets were achieved. Periodically, goals are re-evaluated, updated, and new goals are set. EMS Participants report the results of the EMS to the DNR annually.

Program participants benefit from EMS in many ways - including:

- Potential reduction in landfill tonnage fees
- Special Grant Funding
- Environmental & operational improvements
- Improved staff communication and training
- Organizational continuity due to improved documentation

The EMS program is open to Solid Waste Planning Areas and Permitted Facility Service Areas. **Applications for the next round of Tier 1 participants are due each February 15.**

2015 EMS SUCCESS

NORTHERN PLAINS REGIONAL LANDFILL

Northern Plains Regional Landfill (Northern Plains), representing four counties in Northwest Iowa, set a recycling goal in 2015 aimed at increasing recycling by starting up recycling at construction sites in the area. The “Action Plan” set to carry out the goal was to approach managers of sites where construction was taking place and arrange to place a cardboard recycling bin at each alongside the waste container.

So far, six containers have been placed at construction and business sites in the area. The final number of containers documented will be used as a baseline figure as Northern Plains goes forward. When the organization re-evaluates this goal, they may choose the following: deem the goal complete, update the goal seeking to increase the number of sites served, or change the goal for example to include other types of businesses.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about EMS and Comprehensive Planning, go to www.iowadnr.gov/SWEMS

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COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Cities and counties in Iowa are charged with providing integrated solid waste planning for the citizens of this state. To accomplish these tasks, they have grouped together into Solid Waste Planning Areas. Every five years, each Planning Area must file a Comprehensive Plan Update detailing how they have implemented waste reduction and recycling programs in the area according to State Code. The plans also list goals compiled by Planning Areas with input from stakeholders for the coming years.

When each Comprehensive Plan Update is submitted, the DNR staff reviews the plan to determine if it meets Iowa Code and Rule. At the same time, the DNR staff also provides assistance and informs Planning Area officials about pertinent programs and success stories from cities and facilities across the state. The DNR staff utilizes site visits, phone calls, and email to assist stakeholders.

Round 7 of the Comprehensive Planning Updates will be complete with the last submissions due May 1, 2016. For more information on Comprehensive Planning, please see the following website: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Land-Quality/Solid-Waste/Comprehensive-Planning>

Click on Planning Area Map, under Planning Area Links for information about community/county groups. For more specific information, please see Planning Area Descriptions.

2015 COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING SUCCESS

MONONA COUNTY PLANNING AREA

The Plan Update process is a great time for Planning Area staff to evaluate programs and determine if those programs are successful. Recently the Monona County Planning Area (Monona) submitted a Comprehensive Plan Update to DNR. When the Plan Update was reviewed, the DNR staff learned about the programs this small, one county Planning Area has implemented. Monona County cities, businesses, and residents benefit by having safe convenient outlets for recyclables, hazardous material, and waste. Monona markets programs use social media, local media, and flyer to make sure everyone knows what goes where.

Monona has found an exciting way to promote the organization's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program. They accept materials like pesticides, cleansers, and oil based paint during facility hours, but twice each year (one day Spring/Fall) they hold special HHW Days. On the special HHW collection days, the staff goes all out to

make sure the residents are educated and excited. They advertise, put up flyers, and the main incentive: free food! Breakfast, lunch, and a chance for a fabulous raffle prize (courtesy of area businesses) are available to those who deliver HHW to the facility. There are also activities for youngsters. Monona utilizes the Planning Area Plan Update to make sure the programs like this one are meeting the needs of stakeholders.

The DNR staff members are available to help Planning Areas, cities and residents with recycling and waste diversion activities.

