

# SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING INITIATIVES

## INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL FOOD WASTE GENERATOR STUDY (ICI FOOD WASTE STUDY)

The ICI Food Waste Study was developed as a follow-up to the Statewide Waste Characterization Study. The waste characterization study showed that food waste is the most landfilled solid waste material in Iowa. In order to address the amount of food waste being landfilled, generator information was needed. Residential generation of food waste is generally known and understood; however, details of food waste generation in the industrial, commercial, and institutional sector is largely unknown and resulted in the development of the ICI Food Waste Study.

The Department issued an RFP and contracted with the Iowa Waste Reduction Center to develop and implement the ICI Food Waste Study.

The ICI Food Waste Study identified Iowa food waste generators in the following ten generator categories:

- Food manufacturing/processors
- Hospitals
- Food distributors/wholesalers
- Nursing homes
- Colleges and universities
- Correctional facilities
- Supermarkets
- Resorts/conference centers
- Restaurants
- Schools K-12

Company data was obtained through individual surveys, public records, and industry standards. This data provides food waste generation rates, quantities, frequency, current management method, generator location, and so forth. The Department is analyzing the data and mapping generator locations as well as compost facilities and anaerobic digester facilities able to manage food waste. This information will assist in the development of state and local strategies to reduce and reuse food waste in Iowa.

## RURAL HUB AND SPOKE RECYCLING STUDY

Late in 2015, the Department issued a Request for Proposals to conduct a comprehensive study assessing the existing recycling infrastructure in rural Iowa leading to recommendations for implementing a hub and spoke recycling system. The partnerships inherent to a hub and spoke recycling system may assist with increasing rural recycling accessibility and participation while improving rural recycling efficiencies and economics. The study will identify and consider, among other things, existing rural recycling services, recycling service providers, and existing recycling gaps and provide strategies to fill identified recycling gaps. The study is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016.

## MOBILE EDUCATION EXHIBIT

The Cause & Effect: Your Eco Story mobile education exhibit received numerous visitors during 2015. Scheduled events allowed approximately 8,000 people to tour the mobile exhibit, not including the several thousands more that visited the exhibit during the Iowa State Fair.

In 2015, the onboard generator was replaced with a quieter and more efficient model. Efforts are underway to update the educational content of the interactive displays within the exhibit. These updates will take place over the course of 2016.

The mobile education exhibit is an all-inclusive experience that provides an interactive way to learn about the natural resources used in our daily lives, the effects this has on our environment, and the simple steps that can be taken around the home to minimize the waste of these resources.

For additional information and to reserve the exhibit for your next event, visit the Mobile Education Exhibit webpage: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Land-Quality/Waste-Management/FABA/Mobile-Education-Exhibit>

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about FABA's solid waste and recycling initiatives, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/FABA](http://www.iowadnr.gov/FABA)

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