

SOLID WASTE ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

The Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP) was established in the landmark Groundwater Protection Act of 1987 to offer financial assistance for the development and implementation of solid waste management projects to reduce the amount of solid waste generated and the amount of solid waste landfilled.

More than \$3.3 million was requested in funding to assist with implementing projects and programs that reduce solid waste generation and to divert solid waste from the landfill for higher and best use. Selected applicants were competitively awarded \$1.5 million to reduce and recycle solid waste resources. SWAP awards leveraged with over \$900,000 in local investment, allowed 29 new solid waste reduction, recycling and public awareness projects and programs to assist Iowans in conserving natural resources while stimulating local economies through product purchases and new services.

Projects that received funding assistance included a variety of new and expanded residential, commercial and agricultural related recycling projects, asphalt shingle recycling, food waste recovery expansion, and electronic waste reuse and recycling.

Thirty-seven (37) stakeholders, with active SWAP agreements, reported more than 74,000 tons of solid waste was diverted from Iowa landfills by these SWAP assisted local programs.

SWAP receives a portion of the solid waste tonnage fee assessed on solid waste landfilled in Iowa. Solid waste agencies collect the tonnage fee from landfill customers, retain varying amounts for local programs and remit the remainder to the state where it is deposited into the Groundwater Protection Fund. The tonnage fee is used to support several statewide programs.

2015 SWAP COMPETITIVELY FUNDED AWARDS

TYPE	FUNDING
Request Amount	\$1,858,705
Award Amount	\$973,945
Amount Leveraged Locally	\$551,061

IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE - CHAPTER 209 SOLID WASTE ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM

Iowa Code section 17A.7(2) requires state agencies to review each administrative rule on a five year cycle. The purpose of this in-depth look at administrative rules is to remove duplication and confusion, ensure statutory authority for each administrative chapter, and identify efficiencies. A review of the rules for administering SWAP was conducted, public comments were received, a public hearing held, and presentations to both the Environmental Protection Commission and to the Administrative Rules Review Committee were conducted.

As a result of this review, the following actions were taken:

- Rename Chapter 209 to "Landfill Alternatives Financial Assistance".
- Minor corrections to the rules pertaining to SWAP by deleting references to the "Waste Management Assistance Division", which is now part of the Land Quality Bureau within the Environmental Services Division.
- Add rules specific to administering the Derelict Building Grant Program.
- Reformat the chapter so that:
 - Rules applicable to both SWAP and the Derelict Building Grant Program make up the first part of the chapter;
 - Rules specific to SWAP make up the second part of the chapter;
 - Rules specific to the Derelict Building Grant Program make up the final part of the chapter.

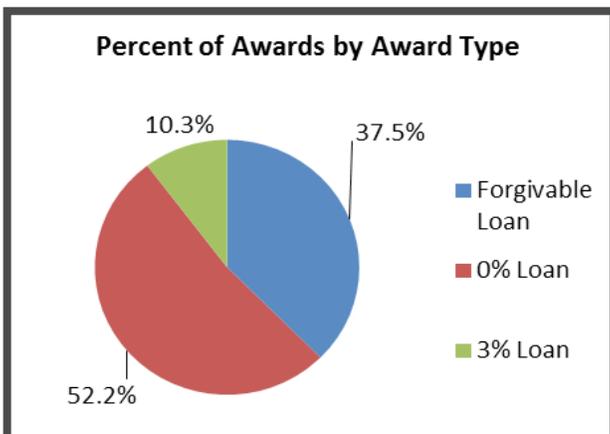
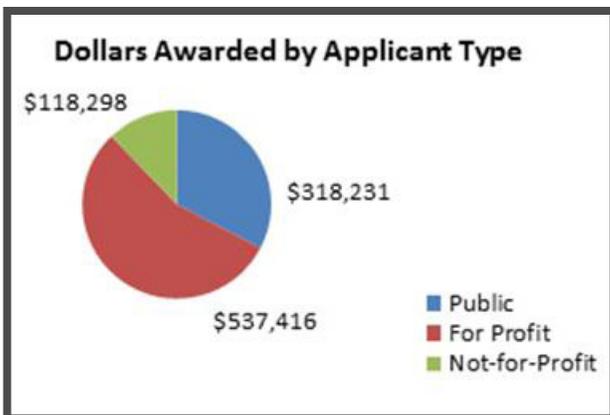
IAC Chapter 209 has been approved and will become effective on January 27, 2016.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about SWAP, go to www.iowadnr.gov/FABA

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STAKEHOLDER MEETING

A September meeting was held in Des Moines with individuals, agencies, and organizations interested in SWAP. The meeting included presentations on five active food waste related SWAP projects, presentations relating to recycling partnerships between the private and public sectors, a review of SWAP awards and funding levels, changes to Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 209 – Solid Waste Alternatives Program, and an open discussion of alternatives to current SWAP procedures.

Over the past few years, funding available for SWAP has been trending downward. A group discussion was held on revising the manner in which SWAP funds are allocated to selected applicants as a way to help ensure adequate levels of funding remain available to applicants statewide and to allow for special solid waste studies and targeted solid waste diversion projects.

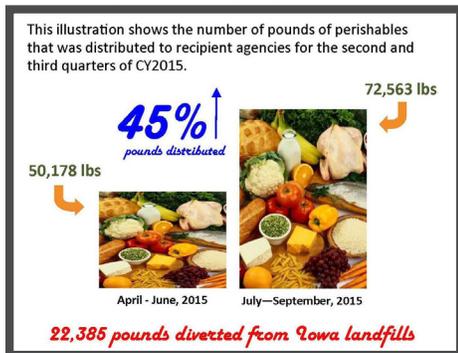
The following table shows the change to SWAP competitive award allocations effective with the awards from April 2016. Applicants should take this table into consideration when applying for SWAP funds. Award allocation recommendations may vary on a case by case basis subject to the approval of the Department. Updated applications are available to download at www.iowadnr.gov/FABA.

Loan Type	New Award Allocation (beginning April 2015)	Former Award Allocation
Forgivable Loan	Up to \$10,000	Up to \$20,000
0% Interest Loan	Next \$50,000	Next \$150,000
3% Interest Loan	Remaining award amount	Remaining award amount

2015 SWAP SUCCESS

IOWA FOOD BANK ASSOCIATION

Iowa Food Bank Association applied for SWAP assistance to implement a project with a simple goal, to provide more refrigeration and freezer capacity to entities that feed Iowans in need. In 2014, the Association surveyed member food pantries to gauge interest and need for additional cold storage to meet the goal of providing healthful, perishable food items to those in need. Based on survey results, the Iowa Food Bank Association applied for and received a forgivable loan and in turn granted this



money to food pantries on a competitive grant basis. Funds were used to purchase Energy Star rated freezers and refrigerators to selected pantries.

The grant opportunity was met with overwhelming interest and success. 27 grants of up to \$1,000 were awarded to food pantries and community feeding programs across Iowa to increase the amount of perishable foods distributed to hungry Iowans. These perishable food items would otherwise have been discarded as waste without adequate cold storage. Between the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2015, when most recipient food pantries obtained additional cold storage capacity, the amount of perishable food items distributed to those in need increased 45% to 72,563 pounds.



BIG OX ENERGY

Big Ox Energy applied for SWAP assistance to install a depackaging system at their anaerobic digester facility in Riceville. The depackaging system expands the types of food waste and other packaged organics accepted at the facility for conversion to energy. Big Ox Energy is now able to accept packaged organic wastes that include, but are not limited to, powdered beverage mixes, instant coffee, animal feed ingredients, canned pet foods, canned soups, and mixed grocery store produce waste.

After just a few months of operation, Big Ox Energy has accepted and processed 2,675 tons of packaged inedible organics. "The volume of material received has been greater than expected and the customer list continues to grow", said Kevin Bradley, Business Development Director.

