

# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS & COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Thirteen Solid Waste Agencies and Permitted Facility Service Areas now take part in the Solid Waste Environmental Management System (EMS) Program. EMS is a voluntary alternative to the traditional Comprehensive Planning system for Iowa. The EMS program was created through innovative legislation crafted by a diverse group of stakeholders in 2008.

EMS program participants utilize a management framework based on established procedures that emphasize continual improvement in six environmental “component” areas including:

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

The program participants set program objectives (goals) and report annually on the steps and methods used to accomplish those goals. Participants collect results on whether or not targets were achieved, then reevaluate goals and set new ones.

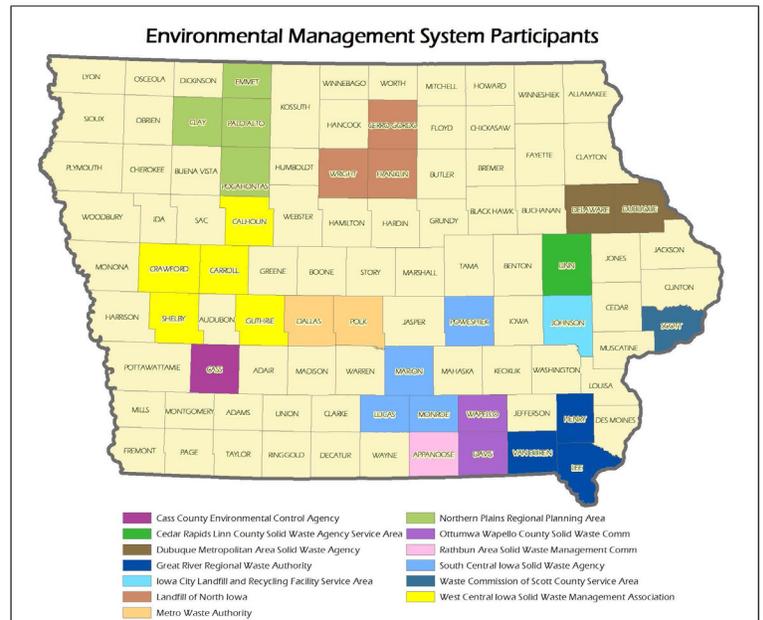
EMS program participants receive a number of incentives and benefits to assist them in their quest for continuous improvement:

- Potential reduced landfill tonnage fees paid to DNR
- Eligible to apply for special EMS Grant Funds
- Potential reduced Comprehensive Planning reporting requirements
- Special training and workshops with EMS consultants
- Other benefits such as environmental improvements

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



**Above:** Metro Waste Authority developed an Adopt-A-Stream program to facilitate annual clean-ups throughout the MWA service area.



## TIER 2 PARTICIPANTS:

- Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center (LF Service Area)
- Northern Plains Regional Planning Area
- South Central Iowa Solid Waste Agency
- Cass County Environmental Control Agency\*
- Cedar Rapids Linn-County Solid Waste Agency (LF Service Area)\*
- Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency\*
- Metro Waste Authority (LF Service Area)\*
- Rathbun Area Solid Waste Management Commission\*
- Waste Commission of Scott County (LF Service Area)\*
- Landfill of North Iowa
- Ottumwa Wapello County Solid Waste Commission  
\* Pilot

## TIER 1 PARTICIPANTS:

- Great River Regional Waste Authority
- West Central Iowa Solid Waste Management Association

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about EMS and Comprehensive Planning, go to [www.iowadnr.gov/SWEMS](http://www.iowadnr.gov/SWEMS)

### DNR Contact:

Leslie Goldsmith • 515.725.8319  
Leslie.Goldsmith@dnr.iowa.gov

## 2014 EMS SUCCESS

### IOWA CITY LANDFILL AND RECYCLING CENTER

EMS participant Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center (Iowa City) participated in the Environmental Protection Agency's Food too Good to Waste Program. Iowa City spearheaded a six-week Pilot Project that included 52 households. The project yielded valuable data and information measuring food waste disposal practices of individual families. Project managers say the next challenge will be creating a sustainable path to reduce the amount of food waste going to the landfill. (Photo courtesy Iowa City LF and Recycling Center)

**Note:** In order to make the Comprehensive Planning Online Submittal Log In process more secure, changes are coming soon! The good news is that passwords will be more accessible in the future – you won't need to contact DNR to get them. A separate letter will be sent to Planning Area contacts on this topic

For more information on Comprehensive Planning, visit <http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryLand/SolidWaste/ComprehensivePlanning.aspx>

## 2014 COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING SUCCESS

### CITY OF NEWTON SANITARY LANDFILL

Recently the City of Newton Planning Area took full advantage of the Plan Update process. In addition to required public meetings, Public Works Operations Superintendent Jody Rhone conducted an informal survey of landfill customers regarding potential upgrades to the landfill facility.

One result was the construction of a Customer Convenience drop off site for non-commercial customers. Now operators driving heavy equipment on the working face of the landfill don't need to worry about a residential customer dropping off a couple bags of trash there. Instead, that customer may pull up near the scale and drop those bags into a roll-off container – a neater, cleaner process for all.

Newton is working to keep their website flexible. They added a link to DNR's Iowa Greenlist to their site.

To help get the public engaged and to send them important information, the City of Newton uses "Notify Me" software. People can sign up to be emailed information about special landfill hours or other announcements. See it here: <http://www.newtongov.org/list.aspx>



**Above:** The City of Newton's Customer Convenience drop-off for non commercial customers. When roll-off containers are full, they are dumped at the landfill.

### Curbside Collection Results

- Bin over bag
- ~1,000 pounds of food waste diverted
- Data important for future expansion to curbside customers (15,000 households)



Before



After

## COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

Round 7 of the Comprehensive Planning Update process began in September of 2013 and is well underway. Iowa Code requires that every five years, cities and counties must file a plan detailing how they will implement an integrated comprehensive solid waste program in their area.

DNR staff reviews each Comprehensive Plan Update upon receipt to determine if it meets Iowa Code and Rule. At the same time, staff takes this opportunity to provide assistance and to inform Planning Area officials about pertinent programs and success stories from cities and facilities across the state.

DNR staff members are available year-round to provide information and to assist Planning Areas and individual cities and counties with Comprehensive Plan Updates, recycling and waste diversion activities.