

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Solid Waste Alternatives Program Stakeholder Meeting

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Overview

On October 18th 2012, stakeholders in the Solid Waste Alternative Program (SWAP) met for three hours to discuss specific issues relating to SWAP and to brainstorm ideas for improving the program. Approximately fifty people attended the session. They included representatives from business, associations, government, nonprofits, and education.

Purpose

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources called this meeting in order to listen to stakeholders and gain input about SWAP. The afternoon was divided into three parts:

Part 1: Small group discussions on three topics: a) diverting food waste from landfills; b) diverting corrugated cardboard from landfills and; c) how to organize recycling in rural areas to be effective and economically feasible.

Part 2: Small group discussions about how to improve SWAP

Part 3: A large group discussion about whether those areas that do not pay in-state tonnage fees should be eligible to receive SWAP funds.

Ground Rules

Everyone in attendance agreed to abide by the following ground rules during the small and large group discussions.

- Cell phone ringers off
- Do not interrupt
- All ideas are valid
- Everyone participates
- Stay focused/on task
- Be present

Stakeholder Opinions and Ideas

(Recorded as written. “?” denotes uncertainty of recording accuracy)

Part 1: THREE SWAP TOPICS

A. DIVERTING FOOD WASTE FROM LANDFILLS

Group I Facilitator: Reo Menning

Recorder: Eric Holthaus

- All food waste on topic
- Food waste comes from industrial and residential equally

- Food purchasing performance tracking
- Identify regions in state that have food donations or food banks that have food donation sites and pair with high waste sites
 - Use waste hierarchy
 - Spatial analysis
 - Connect good food waste diversion to commercial opportunities
 - Pair generators with end-users
- Regional map/spatial analysis of Best Food Waste Div. practices
- Garbage disposals for residential
- Composting at home and education - subsidized by government
 - SWAP opportunity
 - Sell bins to citizens
- Increase compost opportunities at landfills - requires lower contamination, education
- 2 tons/week compost needs permit
- Reduction is best/most efficient
- Higher usage of food waste
- Limitations to feeding animals
 - Transportation, animal health
- Projects in schools - don't buy too much - take small, 4 portions when you eat
- Take trays away
- Reduction; Best practices in food waste diversion
- Food reuse/redistribution is important

Group II Facilitator: Karmin **Recorder:** Shelly

- Uniform requirements for all applicants regardless of sector
- Redefine permitting requirements
- Economical access/financial feasibility to outlets/haulers/services
- Any education initiatives different criteria
- Residential education of backyard composting/Veroni composting (?)
- Residential education of available composting services
- Promoting public/private partnerships
- Access to markets
- Food Waste Reduction Initiatives

Top Five Ideas from Groups I and II

	Group I	Group II
1	Regional approach for researching and matching food waste producers and food waste end-users	Redefine permitting requirements for all compost facilities
2	Best practices in food waste reduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By sector • By geography • By strategy 	Any educational initiatives different criteria (no match requirement for education)
3	Look up the waste hierarchy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reduce b. Feed people c. Feed animals d. Industrial processes e. Compost 	Promoting public/private partnerships (regional partnerships)
4	Food portioning performance tracking	Residential/commercial education of services/backyard composting/markets
5	Composting opportunities at home	Food Waste Reduction Initiatives (waste management hierarchy)

B. DIVERTING CORRUGATED CARDBOARD FROM LANDFILLS

Group I Facilitator: Bill

Recorder: Susan

- Dumpsters/Dropbox is located at commercial sites for cardboard
- Calculate the payback period (complicated to calculate that)
- Develop cardboard collection route
- Ban cardboard in landfills
- Educate, educate, educate to cardboard ban
- Ban cardboard in cities with 25,000 population or more
- Create template for bid letting and contracts to haulers requiring separate collection and recycling of cardboard, possibly including information in template on “spot checks.”
- Create city ordinances for separate collection of cardboard from the landfill, and include incentives to cities that do this.
- Pay haulers a % of market value for recycled cardboard

Group II Facilitator: Craig Kelly

Recorder: Teresa Kurtz

I=Issue X=Idea

- I: Collection dynamics=problem for businesses (pay for separate collection)
- X: Education at all levels (haulers and generators)—local

- I: Small generators - small businesses might be “leak”?
- X: Co-ops - businesses combining resources for hauling/collection
- X: Ex: Hope Haven: sheltered workshop - provides a collection service for small to medium size businesses
- X: Building industry/contractors: as a target
- X: Rebates
- I: Economics
- X: A manufacturer/industry/grocery store as a drop off/steward for community (Ex: Whirlpool)

Group III Facilitator: Sara

Recorder: Jen/Brian

- Challenges with Cardboard and Business
 - Storage
 - Transportation/pull fees
 - Lack of collection sites
 - Is it actually cardboard or is it chipboard?
 - Economics to manage cardboard on generator
 - Separate dumpster fees
 - Personnel
 - Level of contamination
 - Competition between public and private
 - Market price (ups and downs)
 - Interconnectedness between cardboard in waste streams and rural communities
- Take steps to separate in businesses
- Subsidize the OCC market
- Address the value or make it easy to manage (so valuable that they can't afford to not manage it (throw away) so easy to recycle it becomes difficult to throw away
- A depot/drop off place in each community (on a county by county basis)
- Facilities can do a working face sort/or input point to separate cardboard out
- Better education of generators
- Burn ban
- Solid end mkt; transportation to get it there and education
- CR - cardboard ban
- Scott - doesn't control commercial waste streams
- Competition between public and private
- Start up

- Interconnectedness between cardboard in waste streams and rural communities
- In rural, residential collection infrastructure can spur/support commercial recycling in area cities

TOP FIVE IDEAS FROM GROUPS I, II, III

	Group I	Group II	Group III
1	Pay haulers a percentage of market value for recycled cardboard. Education of business and haulers	Infrastructure to manage, transport in every town that has a business	Provide funding at the local level for educational outreach to small/medium business, industry, and haulers.
2	Ban cardboard in cities of a # population or more.	Establish a solid market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When markets are up, less cardboard comes into facilities. If this happens the business can't afford not to recycle it. Low hanging fruit is already being done through privates. 	Provide funding/incentive to develop co-ops for small and medium businesses to combine resources for hauling/collection.
3	Create city ordinances for separate collection and recycling of cardboard from the landfill.	Facilitate the building of infrastructure - collection routes - hub and spoke approach and then education to go along with it.	Target building industry and contractors.
4	Develop cardboard collection route.	Things that won't work: Cardboard ban Working face/sorting facilities to pull out material	A manufacturer/industry/retail as a drop-off/steward for community (ex. Whirlpool - Amanas)
5	Donate to food waste groups for composting. "School" fundraiser for student activities—students collect monthly (etc.) from commercial and pay them for cardboard.	Utilize sheltered workshops to provide collection service for small to medium size businesses. (ex. Hope Haven)	

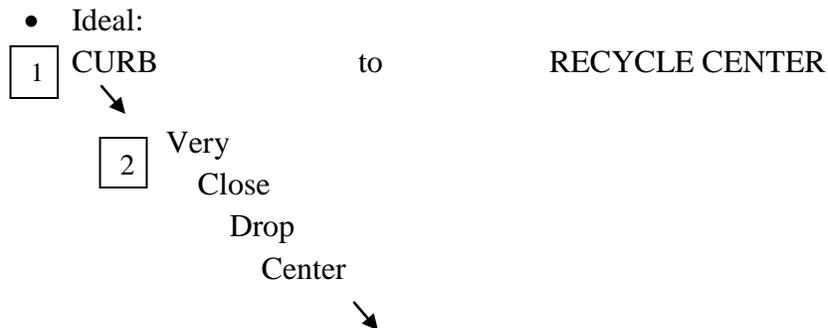
C. RECYCLING IN RURAL AREAS

Group I Facilitator: David Jackson

Recorder: Kyle Fitzgerald

- Define Recycling in Rural Iowa:
 - Transportation of the product. Cost must be sorted.
 - Convenience of collection - If all recyclables could be collected in one space
- Engage communities—Ambassador that deals with issue of recycling
- Contamination and storage are problems
- Transportation and processing could be put out to bid
- More drop off sites
- Cost - Leads the issue for rural communities
- Dave commented that city carton (?) uses a drop site, and finds it interesting that curbside customers use this too.
- Convenience
- CED - have a location to take wood/metal/reuse
- Churches
- Use existing vacant building as recycling center
- Engage the Boy Scouts, or community foundation to manage

Group II Facilitator: Jennifer Fencil



- Big Problem/Challenges:
 - Drop facilities only in largest cities
 - Not much incentive to drive 45+ minutes
 - How to make people care/is it REALLY necessary
 - Needs to be more accessible to all (curb side pick-up)
 - Sitting on recyclables for 2 weeks + to have enough
 - “Dirty Murph” - expensive
 - \$\$\$ Private companies charge client (town or resident)
 - Charge for 2nd trash bin tags

- Solutions:
 - Closer drop stations
 - Don't bother/prioritize Areas
 - Private company incentives
 - Focus on larger companies - C & D
 - *Education/re-use
 - Specific days for HHW-Advertise
 - Heavy-Hand-BAN of R-Matl's from landfill
 - Boards/commission development
 - C & D
 - Factories recycle
 - Mail/garbage truck all over

Group III Facilitator: Leslie Goldsmith

Recorder: Jennifer Frampton

- Problems
 - Lack of sites/access to illegal dumping, trash, etc. left at sites, redesign of bins, site monitoring
 - Costs of collection bins - \$
 - Transportation, market prices
 - Lack of comprehensive plan, accepting limitations among groups
 - Creating consistency in contracts
 - Capture of material - education
- Solutions
 - Redesign bins (SWAP assistance specifically) - regional contracts?
 - Co-mingled collection
 - DNR study rural recycling
 - "Spot light" a community with successful outcomes
 - P2 Intern dedicated to Recycling
 - Rural Recycling Summit

Top Five Ideas from Groups I, II, III

	Group I	Group II	Group III
1	<p>Transportation - take bird's eye view of rural areas and coordinate a region with central location</p> <p>Use top down management to engage community ambassadors</p> <p>Coordinate from drop off to transport to market</p>	<p>Prioritize recycling efforts in counties with biggest problem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus energy where it will make the most difference • Bigger companies / factories / C / D— not so much effort on residential 	<p>SWAP assistance specifically to provide \$ for redesign/replacement of containers/bins</p>
2	<p>Take advantage of vacant buildings.</p> <p>Create local space for collection of recyclables</p> <p>Utilize vacant building as space. Engage civic group such as church or Boy Scouts to run - rural Iowans are resources file</p>	<p>Heavy handed BAN of recyclable materials from landfill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forces communities to find a way to make it happen • Localizes the issue • Perhaps start with only cardboard then work up 	<p>P2 Intern providing recycling assistance to DNR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guru (?) energy and be a champion
3	<p>Create a rural ambassador that reacts to recycling in rural communities.</p>	<p>Education/Re-Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate Boards and Commissions • Let individuals <u>KNOW</u> where to go with collected materials • Make people <u>INTERESTED</u> in recycling programs 	<p>Rural Recycling Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide food invite haulers, town reps
4	<p>Form partnerships and cooperation amongst regions.</p>	<p>Private company incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a niche—use a SWAP grant to empower somebody to GET GOING 	<p>Regionalization—after</p> 
5	<p>Educate people in rural areas. Target schools.</p>	<p>Mail Delivery/Recycle Pick-Up Truck</p> <p>Mail gets to the rural county areas, why can't they pick up as they drop off?</p> <p>*JOB SECURITY FOR ENDANGERED POSTAL WORKERS*</p>	<p>Resource Guide - Resource Shed</p>

Part 2: POTENTIAL SWAP IMPROVEMENTS

What other projects could be funded? Should SWAP operate differently? How else can SWAP dollars be used?

Group I Facilitator: Brian Seals

Recorder: Michelle FitzGerald

- 3.2 mil/year
- 1.? Mil - earmarks
- Fund educational stuff
 - TRAIN THE TRAINERS - ongoing \$
 - ADVERTISING/communication
 - Delegate trainings/diversify
- New technologies for handling specific wastes; ie: ethanol plant waste materials
- Operation:
 - You put in to get out: Pay through tonnage fees or percentage fee
 - FOR-PROFIT PROJECTS must bring waste to an Iowa landfill
 - Funds can go to operation costs as well as capital costs for a period
- SWAP \$
 - Research funding →
 - Trade associations for R&D

Group II Facilitator:

Recorder: Shelly

- Less than 20,000 streamline Awards/quicker turnaround??
- More money into derelict buildings
- Education to encourage deconstruction/Green Leadership
- SWAP \$ to directly educate the public via media, regional workshops, promotion

Group III Facilitator:

Recorder:

- Education - SWAP \$
- Funding niche recycling “Innovation”
- Review process of past awards to determine successes and share

Group IV Facilitator:

Recorder:

- Projects
 - 1. Operations for Longer term employees (or % of salary)

- 2. Best Practices - i.e. regional partnerships
- 3. Solid Waste Studies
- Operate differently
 - 1. Less paperwork for administration of grant
 - 2. Portion of SWAP for incubation of best practices
 - 3. Less focus weight based diversion/environmental impact
- SWAP Different
 - 1. More technology - less paper
 - 2. Usability of SWAP tool kits and dissemination

Group V Facilitator:

Recorder: Jen Fencil

- Research projects - Ideas (for example)
 - open burning
 - Recycling Program evaluation
 - Mandatory garbage collection statewide
 - Identify Resource Shed Map related to Recycling Directory
- Education
 - Pool resources to provide regional or statewide educators - staff experienced in providing education programs to loan out
- SW engineers at the DNR - goal is uniform enforcement
- Web pages for everyone
- Education outreach to public officials and/or members of boards/commissions
- Electronic submittal? Reporting?

Group VI Facilitator:

Recorder:

- 1. Understand geographic differences
- 2. Additional facilitation time - advise
 - measure outcomes - tell applicants of past success
- 3. Electronic updates - forms - paperless

Group VII Facilitator:

Recorder:

- 1.
 - 1. Water reduction projects
 - Wetland
 - Bio soils
 - Rain barrels
 - 2. Incentives for recycling education
 - Environmental in schools/boards and commissions

- 3. Multifamily recycling projects
- 4. Incentives for reducing waste streams
- 5. Incentives for using recycling products in processes
- 6. Cost of recycling in rural counties vs. pollution, foot print, etc.
- 2. More universal state wide education programs with consistent messages
- 3. More Transparency in SWAP/marketing SWAP

Group VIII Facilitator:

Recorder:

- Education
- Developing markets (end markets)
- \$ to ARTIST'S WORKSHOPS for using recycled materials in ART money - a college class?

Part 3: SWAP FUNDS EQUITY ISSUE OPINIONS

Point of View and Rationale

- Landfill reps we heard from were all public and probably fairly responsible. What about municipalities that are taking or considering taking their waste across state lines because their private landfill in state doesn't do things properly? Where's the balance and equity there?
- I don't have a strong feeling on the waste taken out of state, but it would seem fair to reduce the amount funded by the percentage taken out of state
- SWAP funding: Ask on SWAP app. Whether waste is going in state or out. If out not eligible for funding.

Reason: Not financially supporting the integrated management system they are looking into using without assisting in the development

- Should be a spot on form E that shows whether applicant's waste goes in state or out of state. Reviewers then use that in making their decisions.
- Ultimately, need to find additional means of funding - not just landfill tipping fee!
- Consider additional taxation (in tax reporting by identities) on the form. They need to identify where waste is being shipped. If out of Iowa they are taxed heavier. That will force an economic change - rather than legal action
- Obviously a border issue. Decision for SWAP funding shouldn't be all or nothing but rather either weighted in the criteria points or paying a larger percentage of the grant to make the process more equitable.
- Because many manufacturers have a contact with major waste haulers that haul out of state you would keep them from being eligible. They may be the company that comes up with the new market for a targeted material.

- SWAP funding should be available to all in the state
 - For the common good and benefit of state
 - Projects might ultimately have additional benefits, such as economic (job creation), etc.
- Entities directing waste out of the state of Iowa should not be eligible for SWAP funding! If funding comes from the landfill tipping fee only, only entities using the landfill should be eligible.
- If you do not pay into SWAP you are not eligible for program
- Is there a possibility to have 5-10 points of the SWAP evaluation be “negotiable/open”? This would give each reviewer the power to represent their entity (ISOSWA, IRA, etc.) and give more points to municipalities that don’t ship out of state. This might also allow SWAP, for example, to fund colleges in that planning area, but not allow SWA to get the grant (If the SWAP reviewer thinks it’s currently unfair). (Susan Satterberg)
- If you are going to do this (restrict eligibility) must apply by applicant not service area or planning area - add a question to Form C about where applicant waste goes.
- Is the grant system equitable anyway? The more you put into the program doesn’t allow you to access that amount and the large “inputees” of the fund don’t have a weighted say in the programs awarded.

What about Facilities that have paid in to SWAP, now go out of state for waste disposal? Are they cut off from SWAP funds even though they may have paid into them for decades?

SWAP reviewers should stick to the review/point award policies of SWAP. It CAN NOT be different from reviewer to reviewer on this particular issue.

- SWAP funds are to be used to divert MSW from Iowa landfills. Localities that are exporting their waste now are not going to Iowa landfills. On that basis, they cannot meet the objective of reducing waste destined for Iowa landfills.
-  1. Access to useful information is important
- 2. Priority - database for best practices, searchable by practice, sector, and region
- 3. Issue of SWAP fee on tonnage does not originate from point of action=Irresolvable.
- SCIWA - website - copy of 28E agreement
 - Specific language in 28E Agreement in order to get bonding

Sara or her bonding attorney may be able to help through the process

Should have 28E done before bonding

- You have to pay into the SWAP in order to get monies out. Any agency does control their waste and where it goes.

Concluding Comments

Brian Tormey, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Land Quality Bureau Chief, thanked everyone for attending the session and for the discussion of key SWAP issues. He assured attendees that they would receive a copy of the report and information about actions the DNR will take on SWAP as a result of the work accomplished.