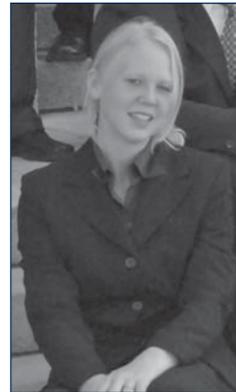


# Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Conservation and Recreation Division

## COMPANY BACKGROUND



The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the government agency that leads Iowans in caring for their natural resources. The DNR is responsible for maintaining state parks and forests, protecting the environment, and managing fish, wildlife, land and water resources in Iowa. The DNR's mission is to conserve and enhance natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to improve the quality of life for Iowans and ensure a legacy for future generations.



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### PROJECT BACKGROUND

The DNR operates a number of facilities across the state to support the services provided, ranging from fish hatcheries to parks maintenance sheds. A goal was established to promote sustainability and environmentally responsible practices at these sites. Because chemical management was identified by a previous intern as a primary opportunity, the task this summer was to create guidance to standardize chemical storage and use procedures within DNR facilities.

### INCENTIVES TO CHANGE

Proper storage and disposal of chemicals including paints, sealers, batteries, oils and pesticides is an important issue at DNR facilities. Proper procedures will increase efficiency in operations and lessen the potential for a chemical spill, thus protecting the surrounding environment and minimizing costs associated with chemical use and storage. The DNR would also like to be progressive in environmentally friendly (sustainable) practices, making its own facilities a model for others to follow.

### RESULTS

#### Chemical Management

A chemical management plan was compiled and provides instructions on storing chemicals, methods of providing secondary containment, dealing with spills, and properly disposing of waste products. Technical assistance contact information and a list of vendors are also available in the plan. The user-friendly guide will be distributed to all DNR facilities and will help ensure safe use and storage, improve general housekeeping, and standardize purchasing decisions that encourage use of less hazardous alternatives and eliminate the need for long-term storage of chemical products. Making this document available over the intranet system will greatly reduce the resources required to distribute the plan to field locations.

#### Sustainability

Sustainable practices were benchmarked in different categories including water conservation, energy efficiency, emissions reduction, resource and materials use, and wildlife protection. Sustainable practices have been expanding throughout the world due to increases in technology and a growing environmental awareness. Practices range from those with very little capital expenditure, such as recycling, to those that will require substantial investment, such as alternative wind energy.



Some practices, like water reduction and energy efficiency, will not only help sustain the environment, but save operating costs for the DNR. The ideas benchmarked will provide direction as the DNR continues along the path of conserving and enhancing Iowa's natural resources.

Project	Annual Cost Savings	Environmental Results	Status
<b>CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	N/A	RESOURCE PROTECTION	DISTRIBUTED FALL 2007
<b>SUSTAINABILITY BENCHMARKING</b>	N/A	RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT	ONGOING