

Commercial Sector Recycling

Iowa Comprehensive Recycling Task Force
House File 826

Commercial Sub Committee

- Responsible for creating a plan that would enhance and grow sustainable recycling programs in the Commercial Sector (CS).
- The Commercial Sector (CS) includes wholesale, retail and service establishments where waste originates (office buildings, theatres, restaurants, hotels, warehouses, stores and markets).

Current and Emerging Issues

- Updated CS resource management information by region is needed.
- Need to identify Commercial tonnage
 - Analysis of materials, markets and/or value; available staging and collection options.
- Must have resource management programs that are economically sustainable, foster behavior change and provide value for the CS while achieving recycling/environmental goals.
- Resource Management programs must include outreach, training, accountability, behavior and cultural change.

Current and Emerging Issues

- Four step model to create a successful CS resource management program:
 - Removing barriers for food scrap and compostable material diversion.
 - E-scrap product stewardship issues.
 - Establishing markets for residuals from recycling streams.

Existing Programs

- Opportunities for Enhancements:
 - Environmental Management Systems
 - Iowa Waste Exchange
 - Commercial Food Residuals
 - Commercial Recyclables Collection
 - Commercial Recyclables Processing
 - Take Back Recycling (i.e. plastic bags, ink cartridges)

New Program Recommendations

- Develop an effective CS communication and outreach educational resource program.
 - Cooperative educational efforts among stakeholders are needed for program success.
 - Recognize recycling/marketing opportunities such as:
 - Organics/Food residuals for composting
 - Refuse derived fuel materials for energy
 - Resources include:
 - Web sites (earth911.com)
 - DNR (Solid Waste Alternative Program)
 - Community Colleges, ISOSWO, IRA, etc.

New Program Recommendations

Four step assessment to create a successful resource management program for the CS:

- Evaluation of legislative/regulatory environmental controls.
- Capitalize on marketplace “green trend”.
- Beautification of Iowa.
- Productive, efficient business model.

New Program Recommendations

- Five Step Operational Assessment Program:
 - Conduct a discard assessment.
 - Set diversion recycling goals and targets.
 - Develop a resource management plan.
 - Implement the plan.
 - Monitor and evaluate progress.

New Program Recommendations

- An Iowa “green certification” assessment and recognition program for the CS.
- The green certification program would:
 - Generate competition among businesses.
 - Provide marketing value.
 - Promote changes in behavior.
 - Reward progress.
- An Advisory Committee of key stakeholders could implement and operate the green certification program.
- The goal of the program is to reach the largest number of businesses in the CS across the state of Iowa.
 - Through Community Chambers, Civic Orgs, Trade Associations, Community Colleges, etc.

New Program Recommendations

- Include organic and food residual materials in resource management programs.
 - Remove regulatory barriers.
 - Expand compost use in public projects.
- Recognize value
 - Job creation potential.
 - Climate/environmental protection.

New Program Recommendations

- A Shingles recycling priority from tear-off projects
- Product Stewardship
 - Electronics
 - Paint
 - Carpeting
 - Pharmaceuticals

Prioritized Funding Options

- Role of:
 - Venture Capital
 - Solid Waste Agencies
 - Private Haulers and Material Processors
 - Local Economic Development Agencies
 - Community Foundations/Green Jobs
 - Climate Change Programs
 - Federal Stimulus Programs
 - IDNR

Conclusions

Recommendations will provide a variety of methods to increase Commercial Sector recycling in Iowa.

- **The CS is ever-changing, expanding and diverse; leading our committee to propose some basic methods to increase awareness, efforts and foster behavior/culture change.**
- **Enhancing current resource management programs to provide training and updated diversion opportunities by region, is key to the success of recycling programs in the CS.**
- **Creating programs that provide value to the CS, are significant, accessible, easy to implement, cost effective and sustainable is essential.**
- **Establishing an Advisory Committee dedicated to increasing commercial recycling in Iowa, will provide guidance for a CS training and green certification program.**
- **Education, awareness, training and assessment/recognition programs must be ongoing, creative and visible in order to reach CS goals.**