

The Institutional Sub-Committee reviewed and researched recycling programs in the following institutions: Local, state, and federal government buildings; K-12 schools; Community colleges; Public & private four-year colleges and universities; Hospitals; Nursing homes; and Prisons.

Current and Emerging Issues: Awareness of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs. Information and Education were identified as primary challenges by the institutions that were interviewed and surveyed by the Sub-Committee members.

Straightforward Recycling Programs: The Institutional Sub-Committee sent a Recycling Survey to 1,952 Iowa Institutions. 544 Institutions responded to the survey for a response rate of 27.9%. The Institutional Sub-Committee analyzed the responses and reported these results:

1. 91% of these institutions have a recycling program, and 9% of these institutions do not have a recycling program.
2. The highest percentage of materials collected and recycled at the institutions are: white paper 91%; cardboard 88%; other paper 77%; redeemable glass, plastic, and aluminum beverage containers 65%; tin food cans 56%.
3. The lowest percentage of materials collected and recycled at the institutions are: shrink wrap 4%; radios 7%; sharps 19%; computers/TVs 30%; non-redeemable glass beverage/food containers 41%; non-redeemable plastic beverage/food containers 48%.
4. Based upon the responses to the survey, institutions with recycling programs reported the real or perceived challenge awareness and education. Over 50% of responses indicated an interest in learning more about recycling programs available for their facilities. These institutions provided contact information for follow-up.

Opportunities and Recommendations for New Programs:

Activities recognized that need to be enhanced.

1. It is recommended that a Resource Management Certification Continuing Education Program be developed in partnership with the Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operators and Iowa Community Colleges for Institutional Resource Managers. Industrial and Commercial Resource Managers may perhaps be included in this program. For institutions that do not participate in a Recycling program, it is recommended that an Iowa Green Certification Program be developed with similar partners as the Continuing Education Program as well as the Iowa Recycling Association.
2. It is recommended that all public institutions and governmental agencies develop a "lead by example" "Green" initiative that makes Iowa a national leader in reduction, recycling, reuse programs. State institutions may refer to Iowa Executive Order #6, February 6, 2008, for guidance on how to implement the initiative and measure its success, whereas government agencies lead by example. By conserving resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and be green. Thereby making Iowa a national leader in waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs.

Priority Recommendation:

The purpose of the programs are to encourage institutions to develop sustainable waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs and to provide a framework for continuous improvement and communicating program results, both internally and externally.

Environmental Impact: These programs will help to reduce the amount of recyclable materials landfilled by increasing and enhancing waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs at Iowa's institutions. Green certification means that an institution meets minimum requirements or standards in the waste reduction, reuse, and recycling program areas. Other areas such as water and waste water management, energy management and conservation could be added to the green certification requirements, as noted in Iowa's Executive Order #6.

Economics: Infrastructure: The programs can be implemented using existing partnerships with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operators, Iowa Community Colleges, Iowa Recycling Association, and institutional associations. These groups will determine the development and implementation of the programs what will include but not be limited to: Best Practices; Iowa Programs, Resources, and Funding; Food Waste Composting and New Recycling Technologies; Product Stewardship. Existing markets would be utilized as much as possible. New markets would be identified as Best Practices and challenged further. The economic impact is to be determined.

Education and Awareness: The programs will require extensive education, awareness, and outreach activities to ensure success. Cooperative educational efforts among the partners and web site information will be utilized and continuously updated.

Funding: Institutions working with the established infrastructure shall access all existing financial resources to finance the education and awareness. A Solid Waste Alternative Program (SWAP) may assist with the development and implementation of both programs. Once developed, the programs could be sustained by certification fees paid by the institutions receiving certification.

We believe that the programs are sustainable with existing partner commitments to the development and implementation of the programs. These recommendations contribute to a comprehensive approach to recycling due to the strategic planning component that these programs provide to Institutions. Implementing the programs enables an institution to create, enhance, and continuously improve its waste reduction, reuse, and recycling programs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from these activities, as ordered by Governor Culver in February 2008.

APPENDIX

Refer to State of Iowa Executive Order #6

The following emerging issues will be included in the Resource Management Certification Continuing Education Program:

1. Food Waste
2. Funding a recycling program
3. Connecting existing Institutions that recycle that wish to do more
4. Product Stewardship

Groups identified by the Institutional Report that may assist Institutions with establishing a comprehensive recycling program:

1. Keep America Beautiful
2. www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com www.crra.com/zerowaste/funding/composting.htm
3. www.uiowa.edu/printmail/intoprint/08/IP08-1.pdf
4. www.registrar.uiowa.edu/registrar/catalog/universitycollege/sustainability/
5. www.uiowa.edu/~purchase/purchase/For%20Faculty_Staff/energysave.html
6. www.uiowa.edu/hr/wellness/green/index.html
7. www.iowarecycles.org
8. www.isoswo.org
9. www.iowadnr.com/waste/iwe.html
10. www.iowadnr.gov/waste/p2.html

Development and Implementation Costs:

Estimated cost of the development and implementation of the Iowa Green Certification Program for institutions is \$7,500. Cost includes the development of minimum standards for certification, application, education and outreach. Minimum Standards include: Baseline Assessment to measure current and continuous improvement; Program Goals and Action Plan; Communication Plan to provide progress report to your organization and to the Green Certification Administrative Organization; Employ a Certified or Trained Resource Manager to lead the program.

Estimated cost of the development of the 16-hour Resource Management Certification Continuing Education Program is \$5800. Program Areas Include: Best Practices; Iowa Programs, Resources, and Funding; Food Waste Composting and New Recycling Technologies; Product Stewardship. Estimated cost of teaching the 16-hour class is \$1200.