

Executive Summary

Iowa Comprehensive Recycling Task Force
House File 826

Our charge

- Make recommendations for creating & enhancing comprehensive sustainable recycling programs.
 - Submit to Governor's Office and Iowa General Assembly by January 1, 2010.
- Final report to present findings and recommendations related to creating & enhancing comprehensive sustainable recycling programs in Iowa that address wastes generated from the residential, commercial and industrial sectors.
 - The legislation also describes specific waste streams that must be considered in this initiative.
- Recommendations may include
 - Methods of collecting & paying for the recycling of residential, industrial, and commercial waste
 - Mechanisms for increasing the recycling of construction and demolition waste & proper disposal of household-generated medical sharps
 - Incentives for increasing the recycling of yard waste, food or other organic waste, hazardous household waste, and electronic waste

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Four Subcommittees

- Residential / Consumer
 - Waste generated in single- and multiple-family homes; includes apartments, condos
- Commercial
 - Waste originating in wholesale, retail, service establishments, including office buildings, stores, markets, theaters, hotels, warehouses
- Industrial / Construction & Demolition (C&D)
 - Waste generated during manufacturing activities & processes. **DOES NOT** include office, cafeteria waste or other types that are not direct result of production processes
- Institutional / Hospital, Schools, Government Entities
 - Waste originating in schools, hospitals, prisons, research institutions, government & public buildings, nursing homes

Our approach for research & discussion

1. Current & emerging issues
2. Existing programs (Current State)
 - Are there opportunities for enhancements & continuous improvement?
3. New programs and opportunities
 - If applicable: opportunity for product stewardship?

Our approach for research & discussion

4. Recommendations: Prioritize / narrow down considering the following:
 - Environmental impact
 - Economics
 - Infrastructure
 - Development & implementations costs
 - Markets
 - Economic impact
 - Education and awareness
 - Funding recommendations

Our approach for research & discussion

5. Are our recommendations **SUSTAINABLE**?
 - How?
6. Do our recommendations contribute to a **COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH**?
 - How?
7. Are our intended outcomes measurable?

Task Force membership

- 29 voting members
 - 2 co-chairs
 - Cross section of organizations and areas across Iowa
- 4 non-voting members
 - 2 members of Iowa Senate, one from each party
 - 2 members of Iowa House of Representatives, one from each party

Meetings & process

- Full Task Force met in several full-day meetings August through December 2009
 - Experts invited to present on relevant topics as part of Task Force education & orientation
- In addition to full Task Force meetings, subcommittees met several times
- Subcommittees gathered input from respective stakeholders through interviews, facility tours, and surveys.

Subcommittee deliverables

- Each subcommittee submitted its findings and recommendations in a written report
 - 5 final reports
 - Industrial / Construction & Demotion (C&D) submitted final reports as two distinct sectors: Industrial Sector and C&D Sector
 - Reports and details of each subcommittee's work included in final written report submitted by Task Force December 16, 2009

Final written report

- Five written reports represent subcommittee recommendations for each of five sectors
 - Commercial, Industrial, Construction & Demolition, Institutional, Residential
 - Current & emerging issues; Existing programs that offer opportunities for enhancements & improvements; New opportunities & recommendations
 - Supporting details for each subcommittee's report included in Appendix
- Five recommendations that have greatest potential for improving Iowa's state-wide recycling success across all sectors

5 overall recommendations from Task Force

1. Develop and implement a statewide Green Certification Program designed to reach the largest number of sectors possible.
2. Create a Green Advisory Committee that represents a cross section of stakeholders from all five sectors represented in this report.
3. Develop a Recycling Vendor and Resource Green List that identifies reliable vendors, contacts, and resources who meet predetermined standards for recycling services.
4. Develop and implement an ongoing, statewide communication and outreach educational resource program for all sectors.
5. Utilize the organizations and members from this task force when moving forward with our recommendations.

Recommendation 1:

Develop & implement a statewide Green Certification Program

- Set minimum requirement, standards in waste reduction, reuse, & recycling programs
- Provides framework for continuous improvement & communicating program results
- Reduces recyclable materials in landfills by increasing waste reduction, reuse, & recycling

Recommendation 2: Create a Green Advisory Committee

- Use this group to design, implement, and oversee Green Certification Program (Recommendation #1)
- They can serve as resources for awareness & education programs
- Include cross section of stakeholders from all 5 sectors represented in this report

Recommendation 3:

Develop a Recycling Vendor & Resource Green List

- A published list of recycling vendors & resources who meet predetermined standards
 - Ensures viability of vendors
 - Minimizes risks for consumers and end users
- Potential funding sources: SWAP grants, sponsorships, certification and annual vendor fees, small user fees

Recommendation 4:

Develop statewide communication & educational resource program

- Creates awareness of existing programs & services to all sectors
- Provides education and marketing of new programs and services
- First step: Conduct a formal, objective study across all sectors to determine current attitudes, needs, perceptions, readiness, etc., thus ensuring the information we provide is meeting highest priority needs

Recommendation 5:

Utilize organizations & members from this Task Force to implement recommendations

- Task Force members have already invested significant time in becoming educated and aware of recycling and waste management
- This base of expertise can jumpstart efforts and ensure balanced coverage of five sectors

Critical Success Factors

- Resources & Funding
 - Recommendations can be pursued using
 - existing funds (SWAP), stimulus programs, etc.
 - certification & membership fees
 - partnerships with other organizations & businesses
- There must be a lasting cultural shift in Iowa from waste management to resource management
 - Requires changes in attitudes and behaviors of individuals and groups
 - Begins and is maintained through continual communication, awareness, & education of stakeholders

For more information:

- The final report can be located at:
<http://www.iowadnr.gov/waste/sw/taskforce.html>

Voting Membership

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