

***Mission Statement**

Ensuring the health, safety and welfare of Linn County residents by managing discarded materials as resources in a way that is cost-effective and environmentally sound.

***Environmental Policy Statement**

The Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency (Agency) is a public entity charged with managing discarded materials as resources. Resource recovery is achieved through a variety of methods including community education, recycling, composting, and capturing waste wood for biomass fuel. The Agency continuously explores the viability of new and/or different technologies for managing discarded materials. This policy establishes the foundation for an Environmental Management System (EMS) and applies to Agency operations and activities as well as heightens environmental awareness in the community.

In keeping with its mission, the Agency Board of Directors and its employees are committed to protecting and preserving the community by implementing an integrated resource management plan that protects the community’s land, air and water. Agency Board of Directors and employees are committed to:

- Preventing or minimizing damage to the environment
- Promoting employee, customer and contractor safety via appropriate emergency and operational policies, procedures, and training programs
- Meeting and, where appropriate, exceeding requirements of applicable local, state, and federal regulations
- Fostering open communication with employees and the public, anticipating and responding to their concerns about potential and actual impacts of operations and services
- Maintaining the financial viability of services through diversification of revenue sources and efficient operations
- Promoting the use of recycled and reused materials through education and outreach programs as well as exploring and supporting sustainable markets for recovered materials
- Developing, designing and operating facilities that are energy and resource efficient
- Promoting continuous improvement in pollution prevention by establishing environmental objectives and targets that can be measured and evaluated

EMS efforts are led by a core team of staff members. Members of the team actively solicit input from employees at all Agency sites. As they are developed, activities associated with objectives and targets will be tracked by the core team, evaluated by management, and communicated to the Board of Directors and other staff on a regular basis.

*The **Mission Statement** expresses the Board’s overall goal for the Agency. The **Environmental Policy Statement** details ways in which the mission is accomplished and provides a framework for annual strategic planning objectives.*