

## #6 Organics & Fibers

### Subcommittee Meeting #6 Summary – Organics & Fibers April 25, 2022 9AM-11AM

Subcommittee meeting #6 of the Organics & Fibers Subcommittee (#6-Organics & Fibers) was convened virtually via Zoom on April 25, 2022 from 9AM-11AM, CST. Attendance for #6-Organics & Fibers is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. #6 Organics & Fibers Subcommittee Membership and Attendance

Name	Company	Attended 4/25/22
Karen Rodekamp	ISU Dining, Iowa State University	Present
Michelle Hurd	Iowa Grocery Industry Association	Absent
Beth MacKenzie	University of Iowa	Absent
Rich Stephens	Archer Daniels Midland Company	Absent
Jennifer Trent	Iowa Waste Reduction Center	Present
Aubrey Alvarez	Eat Greater Des Moines	Present
Jennifer Jordan	City of Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center	Present
Jon Koch	City of Muscatine	Present
Scott Amendt	GreenRU, LLC & Chamness Technology, Inc.	Absent
Kathy Morris	Waste Commission of Scott County	Present
Doyle Smith	City of Cedar Falls	Present
Alan Schumacher	Quincy Recycle Paper/Iowa Recycling Association	Present
Aaron Holt	Sysco Foods	Absent
Brian Sievers	Sievers Family Farm	Absent
Christine Crow	Iowa Department of Education	Absent
Brenda Windmuller	Iowa Department of Education	Absent
Tim Woods	IDOT Freight Advisory Committee	Present
Kaveh Mostafavi	Eco-Care Supply/The Compost Ninja	Present
Christine Hradek	Iowa State University Extension Outreach	Absent
Joe Harms	PDI	Present
Samuel Sturtz	Iowa DOT	Absent
Madeline Schmitt	Iowa DOT	Present
Theresa Stiner	DNR Internal SMM Team	Present
Reid Bermel	DNR Internal SMM Team	Present
Laurie Rasmus	DNR Internal SMM Team	Present
Mike Sullivan	DNR Internal SMM Team	Present
Tom Anderson	DNR Internal SMM Team	Present
Jennifer Wright	DNR Internal SMM Team	Present
Jennifer Reutzel Vaughn	DNR Internal SMM Team	Absent
Michelle Leonard	Consultant – SCS Engineers	Present
Christine Collier	Consultant – SCS Engineers	Present
Hannah Sperfslage	Consultant – SCS Engineers	Present
Karen Luken	Sub-Consultant – EESI <sup>(1)</sup>	Present

<sup>(1)</sup> Economic Environmental Solutions International

## I. Subcommittee #6 - Organics & Fibers Summary

The meeting began with the project consulting team reviewing the agenda for this meeting (see Attachment A) and the previous strategies discussed. The slides presented for this Subcommittee meeting are included in Attachment A.

The goal for this meeting was to finalize the objectives and strategies to be presented at Stakeholder Meeting #3 and to confirm the recommended timeframe for implementing Organics strategies considering immediate (0-3 years), medium (4-10 years) and long-term (11+ years). Additionally, the upstream organics strategies need to be discussed/placed in implementation timeframes.

The discussion concluded with the following Key Action Areas, Strategies, and timelines moving forward to Stakeholder Meeting #3.

As previously discussed, the lifecycle model we are using for organics in the Iowa SMM process is based off of the ReFED 2030 action plan to achieve a 50% reduction in food waste by 2030. ReFED is a national nonprofit dedicated to ending food loss and waste across the United States by advancing data-driven solutions. The ReFED strategic plan has seven key action areas that are illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1 – ReFED Key Action Areas



### Key Action Area – Recycle Anything Remaining

#### **Short Term (0-3 years)**

- Determine what information wastewater treatment plants currently submit
- Evaluate if a rule/code is required to obtain necessary from wastewater
- Include people from the wastewater world in this conversation
- Institutionalize Iowa co-digestion successes/challenges
- Inventory compost facilities
- Analyze food waste reduction strategies in other states/national
- Research what other states require for government organic-content procurement
- What would it cost to direct organics to Iowa composting facilities and digesters
- Create a Food Recovery Master Plan

#### **Medium Term (4-10 years)**

- Implement food waste recovery plan
- Begin creating multi-county organic waste sheds

- Require the State to procure organic-content products
- Develop regulations that define compostable and biodegradable
- Establish compost standards
- Create a robust compost/AD facility data base

#### **Long Term (11+ years)**

- Provide food waste collection to all residents
- Adopt food waste to livestock regulations

### Key Action Area – Reshape Consumer Environment

#### **Short Term (0-3 years)**

- Institute advocacy campaigns to create food waste awareness
- Promote food labeling policies if national legislation is passed

#### **Medium Term (4-10 years)**

- Work with K-12 institutions to create smaller size options for menu items
- Inventory what agencies are doing what with educational and institutional food waste
- Institute advocacy campaigns to create awareness about food waste recovery facilities
- Assess if Iowa needs legislation about food labeling

#### **Long Term (11+ years)**

- None noted at this time

#### **Parking Lot**

- Promote pre-measured food kits
- Establish campaigns to reduce plate waste at buffets. Once compost and AD infrastructure is in place, make sure buffets are aware of food donation, compost, and AD options
- Encourage restaurants to create smaller size options
- Optimize food packaging design for complete consumption

### Key Action Area – Strengthen Food Recovery

#### **Short Term (0-3 years)**

- Evaluate how other states gather local solid waste infrastructure information

#### **Medium Term (4-10 years)**

- Open Groundwater Protection Act to make necessary revisions

### Long Term (11+ years)

- None noted at this time

### Parking Lot

- Require businesses to have a food recovery plan (not submitted to anyone)
- Facilitate a pilot to gather information on how businesses a recovering food

## D. Other Notes

Other items of note from the #6- Organics meeting are as follows:

- Shelly Peterson, PE and Stephanie Weisenbach with the Iowa Economic Authority discussed current available funding for AD projects within the state, namely the Energy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program. This is a state program with no federal requirements. Businesses, municipal utilities, and rural electric cooperatives are currently eligible applicants. This means they're subject to public audit requirements, own their infrastructure, and provide their services to the municipality. Additional information can be found at: [Iowa Energy Office | Iowa Economic Development Authority \(iowaeda.com\)](#) or by contacting Shelly (515-348-6217 or [shelly.peterson@iowaeda.com](mailto:shelly.peterson@iowaeda.com)) or Stephanie ([515-348-6221](tel:515-348-6221) or [Stephanie.Weisenbach@IowaEDA.com](mailto:Stephanie.Weisenbach@IowaEDA.com)).
- Subcommittee meeting (#6a) will be held on May 24, 2022 to finalize remaining downstream elements and to discuss/finalize the upstream strategies. Downstream strategies remaining for discussion include:
  - Strengthen Food Recovery
    - Short Term
      - Create a database of donation sources
      - Increase vetting/awareness system for food recovery organizations
      - Educate businesses on the need to pay for food donation collection
      - Increase storage donation handling capacity
    - Medium Term – Create a system to coordinate food generators with food recovery organizations
    - Long Term – Adopt food recovery legislation
  - Upstream SMM strategies to be discussed and placed into implementation timeframes:
    - Find investors for post-harvest collection
    - Encourage schools to purchase imperfect foods
    - Ensure food is never outside of the intended temperature range, this helps to extend the foods shelf life
    - Educate consumers on food safety, food prep and balancing grocery budgets to prevent food waste at home
- Stakeholder Meeting #3 will take place on June 15, 2022

### **Attachments:**

Attachment A: PowerPoint Presentation

Attachment A  
PowerPoint Presentation



## Agenda

1. **Introductions**
  - a. Project Team
  - b. Subcommittee Members
2. **Schedule Confirmation**
3. **Strategy Action Items**
  1. Reshape Consumer Environment
  2. Strengthen Food Rescue
  3. Optimize the Harvest
4. **Next Stakeholder Meeting**


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## Introductions



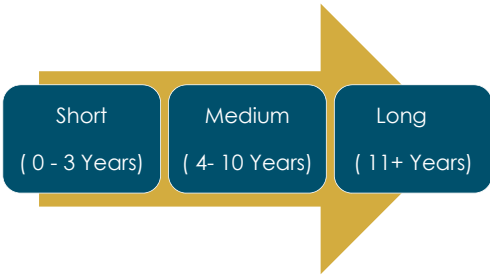
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## Meeting # 5 Schedule Confirmation



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## Strategy Action-Item Schedule



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## Meeting #5 Implementation Review





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## Recycle Anything Remaining Schedule

**Short-Term**



- Determine what information wastewater treatment plants currently submit
- Evaluate if a rule/code is required to obtain necessary from wastewater
- Include people from the wastewater world in this conversation
- Institutionalize Iowa co-digestion successes/challenges

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## Recycle Anything Remaining Schedule

**Short-Term**



- Inventory compost facilities
- Analyze food waste reduction strategies in other states/national
- Research what other states require for government organic-content procurement
- What would it cost to direct organics to Iowa composting facilities and digesters
- Create a Food Recovery Master Plan

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## Recycle Anything Remaining Schedule

**Medium-Term**



- Implement food waste recovery plan
- Begin creating multi-county organic waste sheds
- Require the State to procure organic-content products
- Develop regulations that define compostable and biodegradable

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## Recycle Anything Remaining Schedule

**Medium-Term**

- Establish compost standards
- Create a robust compost/AD facility data base

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## Recycle Anything Remaining Schedule

**Long-Term**



- Provide food waste collection to all residents
- Adopt food waste to livestock regulations

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## Reshape Consumer Environment Schedule

**Medium-Term**

- Work with K-12 institutions to create smaller size options for menu items
- Inventory what agencies are doing with educational and institutional food waste


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## New Discussion Topics



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## Meeting #6 Topics



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## Reshape Consumer Environments



**Short-Term** Promote pre-measured food kits

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Institute advocacy campaigns to create food waste awareness

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Establish campaigns to reduce plate waste at buffets



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## Reshape Consumer Environments

**Medium-Term** Encourage restaurants to create smaller size options

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Optimize food packaging design for complete consumption

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## Reshape Consumer Environments

**Medium-Term** Standardize food label dates to quality and safety

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In 2021, the US Congress introduced the Food Date Labeling Act which would require food products to have standard date labels and would require federal agencies to create a consumer education campaign to address misconceptions.

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"Best if Used By" would be used on products labeled to indicate quality, while "Use By" would instead be used on a select number of products to indicate the date after which there may be safety concerns



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## Iowa Potential

1.42% of Food Waste Prevented

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~42,000 Tons per Year

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## Strengthen Food Recovery

**Short-Term**

- Create a database of donation sources
- Increase vetting/awareness system for food recovery organizations
- Educate businesses on the need to pay for food donation collection
- Increase storage donation handling and capacity

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## Strengthen Food Recovery

**Medium-Term**

- Create a system to coordinate food generators with food recovery organizations



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## Strengthen Food Recovery

**Long-Term**

- Adopt Food Recovery Legislation

In December 2021, a bipartisan coalition of representatives introduced the House version (HR 6251).

The bill enhances the coverage of the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (Emerson Act), which promotes food donation by providing civil and criminal liability protection to food donors and food recovery organizations.

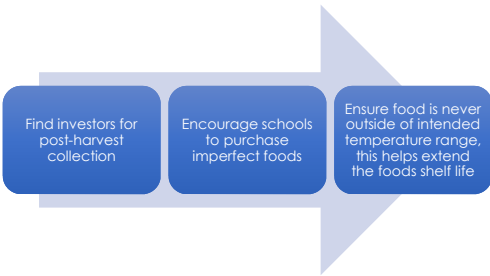
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## Iowa Potential

- 2.69% of Food Waste Rescued
- ~79,000 Tons per Year

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## Upstream SMM



- Find investors for post-harvest collection
- Encourage schools to purchase imperfect foods
- Ensure food is never outside of intended temperature range, this helps extend the foods shelf life

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## Upstream SMM



- Provide stores and restaurants documentation on how to reduce food waste
- Educate consumers on food safety, food prep and balancing grocery budgets to prevent food waste at home

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