Per our contract, the following is a summary report for the Stakeholder Meeting #1 held March 25, 2021.

A. Stakeholder Meeting #1 Summary and Recommendations

SCS Engineers (SCS) and Economic Environmental Solutions International (EESI) (collectively the SCS Project Team) coordinated and facilitated the Stakeholder Meeting #1 held March 25, 2021 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (CST). This meeting was performed virtually via Zoom. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the objectives of the Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) – Vision for Iowa Phase II (Phase II), review the results of Phase I completed in 2019, facilitate discussions with meeting participants to select material categories for further evaluation, and to introduce the next steps for continuation of Phase II.

Prior to this meeting, the SCS Project Team and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Land Quality Bureau staff worked to encourage meeting participation by identifying and contacting individuals that were either invited to participate in Phase I, individuals that work for companies or organizations that may be impacted by project outcomes, or individuals that may be interested in participating. The DNR published a digital article promoting the meeting and encouraging interested persons to register. SCS used this digital article to further promote the meeting using professional social media platforms.

Information for individuals that were invited to attend and participate in the meeting is located in Attachment A of this Summary Report. A total of 62 individuals registered to attend and a total of 60 individuals attended the virtual meeting. Information on individuals that registered and those that attended the meeting, as well as their polled responses from the three questions at the onset of the presentation, are located in Attachment B of this Summary Report.

Meeting materials were provided to registrants prior to the March 25th meeting. Materials provided are listed below and included in Attachment C of this Summary Report.

- Meeting Agenda
- White Paper: Iowa Waste Management Hierarchy – Intent and Limitations
- White Paper: What is Sustainable Materials Management
- Iowa Sustainable Materials Management Vision for Iowa Think-Tank Report August 2019
- Iowa Sustainable Materials Management Strategic Vision for Iowa report October 2019
- Life Cycle Analysis Information
The meeting began with an introduction of DNR staff and the SCS Project Team present in the meeting. After an introduction to project objectives for Phase II, review of Phase I project results, summary of the life cycle analysis (LCA) process, and a discussion of potential priority material categories, meeting participants were divided into three separate breakout rooms. In each breakout room, SCS Project Team staff facilitated a discussion with meeting participants concerning the prioritization of potential material categories that would then be considered for future evaluation in Phase II.

Breakout room participants were presented with nine potential material categories for prioritization consideration. These categories were as follows:

- Construction and Demolition (C&D)
- Durable Goods
- Fibers
- Glass
- Metal
- Organics
- Plastics
- Renewable Energy Equipment
- Universal Waste and Household Hazardous Materials (HHM)

Prioritization of material categories within each group was not limited to a certain number of categories but was guided by the following general established guidelines:

- Materials within the Material Category were recommended in Phase I;
- Environmental benefits;
- Percent of Material Category in the existing waste stream (based on the 2017 Statewide Waste Characterization Study); and
- Feasibility for implementation.

Each breakout room selected their own material category priorities independent of the other breakout rooms.

Once the breakout rooms were complete, meeting participants were presented with a summary of the prioritized material category results. This larger group then discussed and selected which material categories should be considered as high, medium, or low priorities. The results of this discussion are presented in Figure 1 on the next page.
The material category prioritization results from each breakout room are located in Attachment D of this Summary Report.

Meeting facilitators then discussed the next steps for Phase II, which includes establishing subcommittees. These subcommittees will perform further research for each of the prioritized material categories with the intent to select specific materials within that category for further evaluation. Based on the results of their findings, the subcommittees will then work to identify and recommend strategies that promote a sense of collective responsibility to prevent environmental degradation through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling for the selected material.

The presentation slides used for this meeting are included as Attachment E of this Summary Report. The recording of Stakeholder Meeting #1 (including all breakout rooms) will be made available on DVD and is considered Attachment F of this Summary Report.

B. Stakeholder Meeting #1 Materials & Data

- Attachment A – Contacts Invited to Attend Stakeholder Meeting #1
- Attachment B – Registration Information and Meeting Attendee Information
- Attachment C – Meeting Materials
- Attachment D – Material Category Prioritization Discussion Boards and Results
- Attachment E – Stakeholder Meeting #1 Presentation Slides
- Attachment F – Recoded Files of Meeting and Breakout Rooms
ATTACHMENT A

CONTACTS INVITED TO ATTEND STAKEHOLDER MEETING #1
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<td>Cory</td>
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<td>Senior Environmental Engineer</td>
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<td>Jeff</td>
<td>Hanson</td>
<td>Director of Sustainability</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jeffhanson@alliantenergy.com">jeffhanson@alliantenergy.com</a></td>
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<td>Jerry</td>
<td>Kamp</td>
<td>President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jkamp@absciadia.com">jkamp@absciadia.com</a></td>
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<td>Industry</td>
<td>Non-Profit</td>
<td>Paul</td>
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<td>President</td>
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<td>ADRN</td>
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<td>Susan</td>
<td>Robinson</td>
<td>Secretary for Ameripen Executive Committee</td>
<td><a href="mailto:srobinson@ameripen.com">srobinson@ameripen.com</a></td>
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<td>Government</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Jeremy</td>
<td>Steen</td>
<td>Program Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jsteen@cityofdm.org">jsteen@cityofdm.org</a></td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Resource Management Superintendent</td>
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<td>Sheryl</td>
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<td>Kayla</td>
<td>Davis</td>
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<td>Paul</td>
<td>Elbert</td>
<td>Pre-Treatment Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pkebler@cityofdm.org">pkebler@cityofdm.org</a></td>
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Stakeholder Meeting #1 - Invitation List with Active E-Mails
| Industry Name | Government | Government | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Profit (non-food related) | Non-Prof...
ATTACHMENT B

REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND MEETING ATTENDEE INFORMATION
### Stakeholder Meeting #1 - Summarized Registration Data

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<tr>
<td>Lori</td>
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<td>Margaret</td>
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<tr>
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Stakeholder Meeting #1 - Meeting Attendees

<table>
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<th>Name (Original Name)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Phillips - SCS Engineers (Jeff Phillips)</td>
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<td>Michelle Leonard - SCS Engineers (TEST test)</td>
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<td>julie Ketchum (julie Ketchum)</td>
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<td>karen luken EESI (karen luken)</td>
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<td>John Foster (John Foster)</td>
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<td>Joe Bolick - UNI Iowa Waste Reduction Center (Joe Bolick)</td>
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<td>Merry Rankin - Iowa State University (Merry Rankin)</td>
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<td>Amie Davidson (Amie Davidson)</td>
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<td>Rick Hurt-SCISWA (Rick Hurt)</td>
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<td>Troy Willard- Can Shed LLC (Troy Willard)</td>
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<td>Shelene Codner - Iowa Waste Exchange (Shelene Codner)</td>
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<td>Jim Withers American Packaging (Jim Withers)</td>
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Total Attendees: 60
## Stakeholder Meeting #1 - Poll Results

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<tr>
<th>User Name</th>
<th>How would you rate your level of understanding of SMM?</th>
<th>Did you participate in the Iowa SMM Phase I process?</th>
<th>What industry do you represent?</th>
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<td>anita maher-lewis</td>
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<td>No</td>
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<td>Jim Withers - American Packaging</td>
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<td>Nicole Farrier - RRTTC-UNI</td>
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<td>School/University</td>
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<td>Alan Schumacher</td>
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<td>Amie Davidson# DNR</td>
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<td>Becky Soglin (Johnson County)</td>
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<td>Julie Ketchum# Waste Management</td>
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<td>Jen Wright-IDNR</td>
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<td>Jeremy Caron# City of Des Moines</td>
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<td>Joe Bolick - UNI Iowa Waste Reduction Center</td>
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<td>Julie Plummer - Iowa Waste Exchange</td>
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<td>Ayo Oluwalana</td>
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Total Responses: 48

**Rank Your EMS Experience:**
- "None at all" 5 (10%)
- "Little" 7 (15%)
- "Good" 11 (23%)
- "Strong" 24 (50%)
- "Excellent" 1 (2%)

**Did You Participate in Phase I?**
- Yes 29 (60%)
- No 19 (40%)
AGENDA | Stakeholder Meeting #1

March 25th, 2021 (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM)

AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Introductions (20 Min)
   A. Stakeholders, Staff and Consultants
   B. Meeting Expectations

II. SMM Background (65 Min)
   A. What is SMM
   B. Recap and Summary of Phase I

Break (5 Min)

   C. Introduction to Phase II
      I. Objectives and Approach
      II. Roles and Responsibilities of Stakeholders and Subcommittees
      III. Research
      IV. Schedule

Break (10 Min)

III. Materials Prioritization (65 Min)
   A. Life Cycle Analysis Process Review
   B. Material Selection Criteria

Break (5 Min)

   C. Selection of Prioritized Material Categories

IV. Next Steps (20 Min)
   A. Identification of Subcommittee Participants
   B. Questions and Answers
MEMO

Stakeholder Meeting #1

March 25, 2021

MEETING MATERIALS

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Phase II Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) Vision for Iowa! We are excited to be kicking off the Stakeholder and Subcommittee Meetings! In order to prepare for the initial Stakeholder Meeting, we are providing several reference documents here for your review. The first four documents were prepared as part of Phase I of the SMM Vision for Iowa. The fifth document introduces the Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) concept to you.

The documents provided, in addition to a brief description, are listed below.


2. **White Paper: What is Sustainable Materials Management?**: Introduction to SMM and the policies, goals and metrics that can be utilized to focus on reducing the environmental impacts of products through their entire life cycle.

3. **Iowa Sustainable Materials Management Vision for Iowa Think-Tank Report August 2019 Prepared by Future IQ and Burns McDonnell**: Summarizes the scenario-based visioning session held on May 14, 2019, in which stakeholders evaluated the opportunities and challenges of SMM in Iowa, and identified Systems Thinking as the preferred scenario for Iowa, recognizing that the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management needs to be accelerated in order to avoid long-term and potentially irreversible damage to the planet.

4. **Iowa Sustainable Materials Management Strategic Vision for Iowa Report October 2019 Prepared by Future IQ and Burns McDonnell**: The report is based on input from the benchmarking research report, the Iowa DNR Future Think-Tank Workshop, stakeholder surveys, Iowa DNR stakeholder Focus Group meetings and direct input from the (DNR) project steering team. The visioning process provided a clear mandate for a transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management in the State.

5. **Life Cycle Analysis Introduction**: Information on the goal and methods of Life Cycle Analysis. Taken from the U.S. General Services Administration Sustainable Facilities Tool website. Further information will be provided at the first Stakeholder Meeting on March 25th. https://sftool.gov/plan/400/life-cycle-assessment

In order to best be prepared for this initial Stakeholder Meeting, we ask that you take some time to review these documents and be prepared for to ask questions and provide input during the March 25th kick-off meeting for the next phase of SMM Vision for Iowa!

If you have questions beforehand, please do not hesitate to reach out to the project team. Tom Anderson is the lead for the DNR and can be reached at (515) 725-8323 or via email at tom.anderson@dnr.iowa.gov. The SCS Engineers project team can be reached at (515) 631-6160 or via email at dnrsmmiowa@scsengineers.com.
White Paper
Iowa Waste Management Hierarchy – Intent and Limitations

The original mandates of both Federal (1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) and state (1987 Groundwater Protection Act, and 1989 Waste Reduction and Recycling Act) laws related to solid waste were designed primarily as a system of controls to protect human health and the environment. Iowa’s waste management hierarchy was enacted in 1987, as part of the solid waste management policy set out in Iowa Code 455B.301A. The declaration of solid waste management policy states:

The protection of the health, safety, and welfare of Iowans and the protection of the environment require the safe and sanitary disposal of solid wastes. An effective and efficient solid waste disposal program protects the environment and the public and provides the most practical and beneficial use of the material and energy values of solid waste. While recognizing the continuing necessity for the existence of landfills, alternative methods of managing solid waste and a reduction in the reliance upon land disposal of solid waste are encouraged. In the promotion of these goals, the following waste management hierarchy in descending order of preference, is established as the solid waste management policy of the state:

a. Volume reduction at the source.
b. Recycling and reuse.
c. Waste conversion technologies.
d. Combustion with energy recovery.
e. Other approved techniques of solid waste management including but not limited to combustion for waste disposal and disposal in sanitary landfills.¹

The waste management hierarchy is referenced several times in Iowa Code as a guide for decision making, setting priorities, developing solid waste comprehensive plans, and awarding financial assistance. When established, the waste management hierarchy was expected to protect public health, conserve natural resources and save energy. Established now for over 30 years, the waste management hierarchy continues to provide value as a guide for managing discarded waste. The "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" component of the waste management hierarchy has also been particularly useful in providing public awareness and education to foster behaviors that reduce reliance on sanitary landfills for management of end-of-life materials.

While the waste management hierarchy provides overarching beneficial guidance in managing waste, the hierarchy is not without shortcomings. Taking place in the solid waste industry is a shift to a more holistic approach through sustainable materials management. Sustainable materials management incorporates perspectives regarding the impacts on health and the environment a material has throughout its full life cycle (cradle to grave). A material’s life cycle impact begins with extraction of raw materials and continues through product manufacturing, distribution, use and ultimately end of life management rather than simply as a waste being managed under a waste management hierarchy perspective. It looks at a range of inputs and effects, such as energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, water use, toxicity, etc. and the environmental impacts at each stage of its life. Such considerations are critical when making management decisions, setting law and policy, investing in programs and infrastructure and taking action.

**End of Life Focus**

The waste management hierarchy provides guidance on managing end of life waste but does not sufficiently address public health and environmental impacts occurring at each step in a material’s complete life cycle.
Considering the full life cycle provides a clearer and more complete picture of health and environmental impacts for each material management alternative.

An example commonly used to demonstrate the waste hierarchy end of life focus is that of packaging. From a waste hierarchy perspective cardboard packaging is preferred to that of plastic film packaging. Cardboard is readily recyclable through programs across the state. Plastic film recycling on the other hand is limited, if offered at all. For this reason the waste hierarchy prefers cardboard packaging. A sustainable materials management perspective would look at raw material inputs and environmental impacts throughout the life of the plastic packaging. From a resource and energy savings perspective, the non-recyclable plastic film packaging may outperform recyclable cardboard packaging. Plastic film may require fewer resource inputs and less energy to produce and oftentimes is smaller and significantly lighter than its recyclable counterpart to transport. Fewer resources, less energy, and efficient transportation of the non-recyclable plastic film packaging may surpass the benefits of recycling the cardboard packaging.

**Defining Waste**

When do materials become a waste and require end of life management? From a waste management hierarchy perspective, a material or product becomes a waste when it fulfills its intended use at which point it requires end of life management via one of the hierarchy preferences. From a sustainable materials management perspective waste is generated at each stage of a material’s life cycle beginning with raw material extraction. In other words, managing waste begins with raw material extraction and waste is managed at each subsequent stage of a material’s life (manufacture, distribution, use and discard). Management alternatives at each stage are considered in terms of health and environmental impacts.

Actions that fall at the top of the waste hierarchy (i.e. reduction, reuse, recycling) should not be considered waste management. Reduction is not creating waste. It is reducing the amount of a material generated. Reuse of a material is not waste, it’s maintaining or extending the productive life of a material. Recycling a material is not waste, it is a feedstock for creating new items.

The Iowa Waste Exchange Program (IWE) provides an excellent example. IWE matches “waste” from one entity with another entity that views this same waste as a raw material or a product usable in their operations. Materials are being exchanged for continued use, not waste. As another example, the term e-waste is used to describe unwanted electronics when in fact, e-waste electronics contain valuable materials that serve as feedstock for other processes. In some cases, computer e-waste can be upgraded and put back out on the market as a new product. E-waste is an often used term that is not accurate when considering the full life cycle under sustainable materials management.

**Reduce, Reuse and Recycling Limitations**

There are cases where management alternatives within the waste hierarchy do not align with sustainable materials management. Reducing inputs on the front end (waste reduction) may have negative overall impacts when considering the full life of the materials used.

Oregon DEQ used the following examples to demonstrate where following the waste management hierarchy may conflict with sustainable materials management.

Reduce: During the construction phase of a new home with thin walls and little insulation, source reduction is employed by reducing the amount of materials used, less waste is created and less energy is used. However,
while the home is occupied greater energy and resource inputs will be required to warm and cool the house far surpassing the savings of materials and energy during construction.

Reuse: An example of where reuse, a preferred waste hierarchy alternative, does not align with sustainable materials management would be that of an old refrigerator. From a materials management perspective it may be less impactful to recycle the old, inefficient refrigerator and purchase a new energy savings model. Over the life of the new refrigerator, the benefit of reduced energy use may be greater than the resources needed to manufacture it.

Recycle: Glass is an example that from a greenhouse gas emissions perspective, glass to glass recycling is favored over glass to fiberglass production which in turn is typically preferred to using glass in local asphalt paving projects. Transporting glass even long distances to a glass manufacturer is preferable in spite of transportation impacts on greenhouse gas emissions when looking at it from a life cycle perspective. Following the waste management hierarchy, recycling is recycling. There is no preference in the manner to which glass is recycled whether the glass is recycled back into glass, into fiberglass or reused in asphalt paving.

**Toxics**

The waste management hierarchy does not account for public health or environmental benefits with regard to managing toxic substances. In fiscal year 2017, the state's household hazardous materials collection program diverted over 6.8 million pounds of household hazardous waste from landfilling. From a landfill diversion aspect the 3,413 tons (about 1% of waste landfilled in Iowa annually) does not seem significant. But the public health and environmental benefits of this program go beyond landfill avoidance. Landfill diversion under the waste hierarchy favors reuse and recycling of household hazardous materials. Alternatively, removing these toxics from the production stream could be a priority under a sustainable materials management system.

**Weight**

While the waste management hierarchy does not address measuring program success directly, the waste hierarchy is very much tied to these measures. The mechanism in place to measure program success is the weight of solid waste as it is landfilled. The investment of resources (time, money, policy development, etc.) for proper management of solid waste is based on which solid waste components weigh the most and action is then taken to divert materials from the landfill following the waste management hierarchy.

Several factors impact the weight of landfilled solid waste. Product packaging that ends up in the landfill, for example, has undergone considerable change over the past several years. Changes in packaging materials and the packaging itself has become lighter, both affect the weight being landfilled without any reduction or diversion of materials from the landfill. From a public health, environmental protection and sustainability perspective, alternatives to weight based measures are needed.

Iowa’s solid waste management policy is to protect public health and the environment. Implementing waste hierarchy based on solid waste management programs, investing in infrastructure and measuring the resulting impacts on landfill tonnage, may be misdirected and do not adequately reflect public health and environmental protection. In addition to measuring solid waste landfilled tonnage, alternative measures of policy and program effectiveness and identifying targeted solid waste materials, measuring impacts on such things as greenhouse gas emissions, water use, and energy use over the life of solid waste materials should be investigated as a truer measure of public health and environmental protection.
Summary

The waste management hierarchy continues to serve a useful purpose by providing guiding principles for solid waste management and as a communication and education tool. It identifies general principles illustrating reduction at the source as most preferred and landfilling as least preferred end of life management options.

While the waste hierarchy provides some benefit, it falls short of providing the highest protection of public health and the environment and the necessary detail upon which to create new or update existing laws, policies and programs. The hierarchy does not take into account the health and environmental impacts of a material or product over the course of its life by focusing on end of life management. Supporting the waste hierarchy with an overarching consideration of environmental, economic and social sustainability components of the sustainable materials management model would provide greater benefit to Iowans. Current waste management perspectives are changing. Supported by the US EPA, other states and many countries throughout the world, assessing materials management sustainably and for each phase of a material’s life from extraction through end of life management, will further enhance waste management hierarchy benefits. Sustainable materials management recognizes the environmental impacts and public health impacts beginning with extraction and continues with each subsequent stage in a material’s life (production, transportation, use, and disposal).

Following the waste management hierarchy benefits Iowans and the environment and should continue to be used as a general guide for action and as a communication tool. But for reasons outlined above, the hierarchy should be enhanced by implementing a sustainable materials management system. Material management decisions, enacting new laws or policies, developing new or revising existing waste management programs, setting priorities and guiding investments should be grounded on the impact materials have throughout their full life cycle, not simply what to do with end of life discards.
White Paper

What is Sustainable Materials Management?

Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) is the systematic approach of using and reusing materials in the most sustainable way across the entire lifecycle of a particular product or material. It represents a change in thinking from the current integrated waste management system about the use of natural resources and environmental protection.¹

Traditionally products follow the same path. Materials are harvested and used to make a product that is then sold to consumers, used by consumers and then enters the end-of-life management stage, like disposal or recycling. Environmental protection is focused on the end-of-life stage like disposal. For example landfills are required to meet regulations to ensure protection of groundwater. Products are encouraged to be collected for recycling but the current integrated-waste management system does not measure the environmental impacts of these products nor does it focus on anything but the end-of-life stage. SMM is different. It looks at each stage of a product’s lifecycle and measures the resources needed as inputs to make, distribute and use the product. It also reviews the types of outputs generated during each stage of the lifecycle. Outputs like energy and water use are measured to determine the overall impact on the environment for that particular stage and that particular product.

When examining a product's lifecycle all the stages of a products life from the harvesting of natural materials through the manufacturing process to distribution, consumer use and finally, end-of-life management are analyzed to identify those materials and processes that present the greatest environmental impacts.

When examining a material's life cycle all stages are considered, as shown in Figure 1 below. Material extraction, the manufacturing process, the distribution supply chain, consumer usage and end-of-life management are all analyzed to identify those materials and processes that present the greatest environmental impacts. By implementing SMM, a framework develops to identify opportunities to reduce environmental impacts, conserve resources, and reduce costs. Next steps can involve educating consumers on these impacts and how it affects them, working with producers to utilize resources more sustainably and developing policies that will reduce costs, increase technical advances and lessen the impact on the environment.

This approach allows a regulating agency to develop policies, goals and metrics that can focus on reducing specific environmental impacts of a product through its entire life cycle. Impacts including energy use, water use, greenhouse gas emissions, carcinogens or a host of other human health and environmental impacts can be used as a priority for reduction or as a measure of program success. Related additional impacts can also be considered including job creation, extension of landfill life and producer cost savings.

Sustainable Material Management’s Life-cycle Perspective.

Federal Direction
The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging state agencies to integrate material management approaches in existing government programs and educate the public on the benefits of the SMMM approach and how it differs from the current system. Materials management is different from current waste management approaches in several important ways:

- Materials management seeks the most productive use of resources, while waste management seeks to minimize and/or manage wastes or pollutants.
- Materials management focuses broadly on impacts and policies relating to all the lifecycle stages of a material or product—including such upstream considerations as using less material, using less environmentally intensive materials, or making products more durable, as well as downstream solutions such as reuse and recycling.
- Waste management usually focuses only on what to do with wastes once they are generated. Materials management is concerned with inputs and outputs from/to the environment, including use of materials, energy and water, plus multiple environmental impacts.
- Waste management is concerned mainly with outputs to the environment (air, water, land) and usually only those from waste and only where the waste is managed. The goal of materials
management is overall long-term system sustainability, while the goal of waste management is often focused on managing a single set of environmental impacts.

- Materials management counts as responsible parties all those who are involved in the life cycle of a material or product, including industry and consumers. In contrast, waste management usually counts as responsible parties only those who generate waste.²

SMM provides a new way to look at material recovery and address issues prevalent in the current waste system. By utilizing resources more sustainably, reducing the amount of materials used and decreasing the overall impact on the environment, materials management can provide an approach to conserve and enhance natural resources for future generations.

State-Level

Products created and used in Iowa originate from both renewable and nonrenewable sources and follow divergent paths resulting in differing end-of-life-management. Every phase these products encounter requires inputs like energy and/or water and each stage impacts the environment.³ SMM works to reduce these environmental impacts throughout the product’s lifecycle from creation to end-of-life management. Adopting this approach will allow the state to measure a specific products influence on the air, water and land and develop corresponding policies and goals to limit its impact.

The following are a few ways Iowa can utilize a materials management approach:

1. Employ existing waste sort reports to identify the amounts and types of products currently being landfilled and determine which products and materials should be targeted for a life cycle analysis. The results of which will determine the highest and best use for each product by developing policies that feature both short-term and long-term goals that increase collection and processing of these targeted materials and reduce environmental impact.

2. Review existing environmental programs to determine if materials management elements should be added or create new programs that promote life-cycle materials management more fully.

3. Promote greener products, product stewardship and working directly with producers to lessen the environmental impact of their products and processes and save costs.

4. Expand research and innovation support programs to promote materials management.

5. Support and reward state and local champions for materials management and encourage collaboration.⁴

SMM measures the actual environmental impact of products and processes and promotes the using and reusing of materials in the most sustainable way. Any effort to implement materials management in Iowa will require a coordinated effort to engage a diverse group of stakeholders. The state working with these stakeholders will develop, prioritize and select environmental metrics for regulatory development, permitting and environmental programs that promote education, reduce producer costs and improve the Iowa environment.

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This report summarizes the visioning session held at Simpson College West Campus, West Des Moines, Iowa on May 14, 2019. Approximately 30 Iowa DNR stakeholders participated in the Think-Tank and developed the scenarios presented in this report. This report has been produced as part of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources sustainable materials management strategic visioning process, which aims to produce a Vision for Iowa that will guide agency activities.
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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In late 2018, the Iowa DNR embarked on a comprehensive Visioning Project for the future of sustainable materials management in the State of Iowa. The firms of Burns and McDonnell and Future iQ were contracted to facilitate a series of DNR and stakeholder meetings, research and outreach that will ultimately lead to the creation of a Sustainable Materials Management – Vision for Iowa that may be used as a statewide guide for future sustainable materials management related action. These processes include:

- Background research on existing laws, policies and programs
- A state-wide stakeholder survey of views on waste and materials management in Iowa
- Facilitation of an Iowa DNR Future Think-Tank
- Production of an Iowa DNR Vision for Iowa Think-Tank Report
- Stakeholder engagement in the form of focus groups
- Data collection, analysis and visualization
- Production of an Iowa DNR Sustainable Materials Management – Vision for Iowa Report with a roadmap and next step recommendations for sustainable materials management in Iowa

**IDNR Sustainable Materials Management – Vision for Iowa Timeline (Phase 1)**
2.0 INTRODUCTION

This scenario-based Think-Tank report summarizes the Iowa Department of Natural Resources strategic vision and planning session that took place on May 14, 2019. The Think-Tank Workshop was conducted as part of a project to develop a long-term vision and roadmap for sustainable materials management in the State of Iowa. The components of planning work included a Think-Tank survey, long-term Scenario Planning as part of the strategic visioning workshop, and discussion about preferred and expected futures.

- **Iowa DNR Benchmark Study** – As background information for the visioning project, Burns and McDonnell conducted a benchmark study of selected sustainable materials management programs in the United States identified by the Iowa DNR.

- **Think-Tank surveys** – A survey was sent to invited participants of the Think-Tank before the workshop. This input, along with assistance from the Iowa DNR’s leadership, helped to create the axes of the scenario matrix and guide the Think-Tank discussions.

- **Vision for Iowa Think-Tank workshop** – The scenario-based planning Think-Tank held on May 14, 2019, provided an important opportunity to engage Iowa DNR stakeholders in a critical dialogue about potential future impacts of sustainable waste management in the State of Iowa.
3.0 FORCES SHAPING THE FUTURE

The Think-Tank provided a forum for participants to explore the forces of change shaping the future of Sustainable Materials Management in the State of Iowa. Participants at the Think-Tank explored four areas of emerging macro trends and forces of change. Perceptions around the nature of impact of these trends, both in terms of size and timing of impact, were explored to gauge how important participants consider the trends. Participants discussed the emerging trends on global, regional and local scales, and related them directly to sustainable materials management in terms of how well prepared they considered the State of Iowa. Specifically, the trend areas were:

- Demographics, population and mass urbanization
- Changing macro-economics and societal values
- Energy, food, water and changing climate
- Technology, and the next industrial revolution

Of particular relevance to the discussion on trends is the speed and scale of change occurring. Newly developed innovations are being implemented globally and locally at all scales, thereby changing the face of industries and society in a rapid and profound way. Manufacturing is at the forefront of this transformation, but other industries are also quickly developing such as agriculture, health care, biomedical research, infrastructure, energy, transportation and mobility, shipping and logistics, food services, hospitality, financial services, and retail.

To access a complete copy of the Think-Tank presentation, please visit the following link:
https://www.iowadnr.gov/FABA

FUTURE INSIGHT:

- The emerging macro trends represent ‘headwinds’ and ‘tailwinds’ for the Iowa DNR. Being able to capture the opportunities offered by technology will be critical for the Iowa DNR and its stakeholders.
- The power of consumer demand and changing societal values cannot be underestimated. Changing attitudes towards waste and the environment may prove to be the most significant drivers in the transition to sustainable materials management.
4.0 SURVEY RESULTS – KEY STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Prior to the Think-Tank, a Think-Tank survey was conducted, and 33 stakeholders responded to the survey. Respondents were asked about their views on having a shared vision for the future of sustainable materials management in Iowa. Below are the compiled results of the Think-Tank survey.

4.1 PROFILE INFORMATION

In terms of survey respondent demographics, 15 were female and 18 were male. The majority of respondents were ages of 41 or over, with 6 between the ages of 21-40. Respondents were also asked about their organizational affiliation.

The results from the stakeholder survey provide informative insight into the design of the scenario planning framework used in the Think-Tank.
4.2 IMPORTANCE OF A SHARED VISION

Think-Tank participants were asked two questions about the importance of having a long-term vision for sustainable materials management in Iowa. The first question asked the general question, the second asked how important a long-term vision for sustainable materials management would be in making decisions for the participant’s business or organization.

How important do you think it is to have a long-term vision for Sustainable Materials Management in Iowa?

- 1. Not at all important
- 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. Critically important
- Don’t Know

- 0%
- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%
- 50%

How important will a long-term vision for Sustainable Materials Management be in making decisions for YOUR business or organization?

- 1. Not at all important
- 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. Critically important
- Don’t Know

- 0%
- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%
- 50%

DATA INSIGHT:

- A long-term vision was identified as important not only for sustainable materials management in Iowa, but also for making decisions for the respondents’ organizations.
- Having agreement on the importance of aligning perspectives and striving for points of consensus will help the Iowa DNR with decision-making.
4.3 TRANSITIONING TO A SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT POLICY APPROACH

The 1987 Iowa Groundwater Protection Act and the 1989 Waste Volume Reduction and Recycling Act put into motion significant changes to policy directions concerning issues and opportunities in solid waste management in Iowa. Most significantly, these key pieces of legislation serve as a framework for integrated solid waste management where the state sits today. The basis for passage was protecting human health and the environment. The Think-Tank survey included two questions about the transition to a sustainable materials management policy approach.

4.3.1 IMPORTANCE OF THE TRANSITION

To determine the importance of the transition from waste management to materials management, survey participants were asked about the importance in terms of aiming for the highest and best use of discarded materials and improved environmental protection. Respondents overwhelmingly considered the transition important.

How important do you think it is for the State to transition from an integrated solid waste management policy to a sustainable materials management policy? (Aiming for the highest and best use of discarded materials and improved environmental protection).

Data Insight:
- Consistent advocacy for policy change at the legislative level will be necessary to move from integrated solid waste management to materials management in the State of Iowa.
- The key to the transition from integrated solid waste management to materials management will be the long-term sustainability of the required changes.
4.3.2 TIMING OF THE TRANSITION

To determine when the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management should take place, survey participants were asked how likely the transition would occur in the near future. The majority of respondents leaned towards the definite possibility that it would happen, however a third of respondents questioned the rapidity of the transition.

How likely do you think there will be a transition from an integrated solid waste management policy approach to a sustainable materials management policy approach in the near future? (Move to aiming for the highest and best use of discarded materials and improved environmental protection.)

DATA INSIGHTS:

- The muted response to the estimation of timing for the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management in Iowa points to a potential challenge to gathering the public support to make the transition.
- Given participants’ more reserved view about the anticipated timing of the transition, the Iowa DNR, public agencies, private sector business and industry and the Iowa legislature will need to take a proactive leadership position with respect to the State’s transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management approach.
### 4.4 DRIVERS OF CHANGE ANALYSIS

To analyze the perceived drivers and influences on waste management in Iowa, survey participants were asked about the importance of changes in some topic areas over time, as well as Iowa’s performance in addressing these drivers of change.

#### 4.4.1 IMPORTANCE OF DRIVERS OF CHANGE

To gauge the importance of the inevitable impact of changes over time, survey respondents were asked how important changes in the following issues and sectors will be to waste management in Iowa.

For the following ‘drivers of change’, how important do you think they are in shaping the future of waste management in Iowa?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drivers of Change</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Markets and pricing for recyclable materials</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Materials recovery (recycling) technologies</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing solid waste management regulations</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste diversion and recycling goals</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product packaging design changes</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government regulations restricting land uses</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More efficient distribution and transportation systems</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid waste conversion technologies (e.g. energy from waste)</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased producer’s/manufacturer’s responsibility- reuse and recycling</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing attitudes of Iowa’s citizens’ desire for sustainable waste management</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More efficient product manufacturing and technologies</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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</table>

**DATA INSIGHTS:**

- Survey respondents considered markets and pricing for recyclable materials and product packaging design changes as the most important drivers of change in shaping the future of waste management in Iowa.
- The Iowa DNR Think-Tank is a significant step in identifying the gaps in current policy that will need to be addressed to make the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management.

**Data Insight:**

Education will play a key role in gaining support for the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management in the State of Iowa.
### 4.4.2 Iowa’s Performance in Addressing Drivers of Change

To assess how well the State of Iowa is addressing drivers of change, survey respondents were asked to rate the State’s performance. Below are the results.

**How well is Iowa currently addressing the following ‘drivers of change’?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rating Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Markets and pricing for recyclable materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Materials recovery (recycling) technologies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Changing solid waste management regulations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Waste diversion and recycling goals</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Product packaging design changes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government regulations restricting land uses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More efficient distribution and transportation systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid waste conversion technologies (e.g. energy from waste)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased producer’s/manufacturer’s responsibility-reuse and recycling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing attitudes of Iowa’s citizens’ desire for sustainable waste management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More efficient product manufacturing and technologies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### DATA INSIGHTS:

- Iowa was considered by survey respondents to not perform well in the area of increasing producers’/manufacturers’ responsibility for materials reuse and recycling and product packaging design changes.
- Consumer and producer education will play a key role in helping the State of Iowa make the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management.
- Legislative support is critical to the transition toward sustainable materials management as the policy of the State of Iowa.
4.5 IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS

To gauge the relative importance of certain factors and their impact on the future of solid waste management in Iowa, survey respondents were asked to rank eight factors identified by the Iowa DNR as important. State funding and policy settings were ranked the most important factor by survey respondents, with Federal and local funding and policy settings ranked closely as second and third.

In terms of their impact on the future of solid waste management in Iowa, RANK the relative importance of the following factors. (10 = highest rank; 1 = lowest rank)

DATA INSIGHTS:

- All of the factors identified by the Iowa DNR were considered relatively important by survey respondents.
- Changes in citizen perceptions to environmental responsibility have been key elements in gaining support to alter the direction of integrated solid waste management towards sustainable materials management in other leading states such as Oregon and Vermont.
4.6 VIEWS OF THE FUTURE – THREATS FACING WASTE MANAGEMENT IN IOWA

As a measure of where Iowa DNR stakeholders considered the State of Iowa unprepared or threatened by future impacts, survey respondents were asked to cite in narrative form what they believe are the biggest threats facing waste management in Iowa in the future. Initial results show considerable concern over markets, in particular the recycling market, reduced funding, lack of political will and apathy, as primary concerns.

What do you think are the biggest threats facing waste management in Iowa in the future?

FUTURE INSIGHTS:

- Addressing perceived threats to waste management will take visible leadership in both public and private sectors in order to achieve the desired transition to sustainable materials management.
- The reliance on international markets for recovery and reuse of recycling products has weakened the U.S. position to achieve sustainable materials management.
4.7 VIEWS OF THE FUTURE – OPPORTUNITIES FACING WASTE MANAGEMENT IN IOWA

In order to ascertain where Iowa should focus its efforts in leveraging resources, survey respondents were asked to describe in narrative form what they believed were the greatest opportunities facing waste management in Iowa. Materials management was identified as the greatest opportunity, followed by an equal prioritization of waste reduction, sustainable funding, new technologies, domestic markets, diversion programs, and consumer awareness.

What do you think are the biggest opportunities facing waste management in Iowa in the future?

Purposeful leadership will be needed to guide the IDNR as it leverages support for change going forward.

FUTURE INSIGHTS:

- Achieving a closed-loop systematic and sustainable materials management process for Iowa is key to progressing the IDNR’s Sustainable Materials Management - Vision for Iowa project.
- The impact of future trends in materials management technology such as artificial intelligence will accelerate the State of Iowa’s goals.
- In the State of Iowa, increased materials management infrastructure, sustainable product manufacturing, packaging, distribution and recovery will realign reuse and recycling markets in support of sustainable materials management.
5.0 SCENARIO-BASED THINK-TANK

The Iowa DNR’s scenario-based Think-Tank was conducted on May 14, 2019 and included state-wide stakeholders including business, industry, and governmental representatives. Approximately 25 people attended this five and a half-hour session. The session was intended to build coherency around initial future planning for sustainable materials management that will guide state-wide stakeholders in the future.

Future iQ’s Scenario Planning process provides a method to explore plausible futures and consider the implications of various future scenarios. The Think Tank workshop aimed to:

• Deepen the understanding and examination of how external events and local conditions could shape decision-making
• Identify and understand the key influences, trends, and dynamics that will shape the materials waste management looking out to 2030
• Create and describe four plausible long-term scenarios for the IDNR
• Begin exploring alignment around a shared future vision
• Examine the strengths and weaknesses of the sustainable materials management as perceived by the stakeholders

The scenarios developed during this Scenario Planning process and outlined in this report are important to provide a framework to discuss future possible outcomes and implications for sustainable materials management in Iowa. In addition, the Think-Tank deliberations can assist in identifying key actions for the State and in exploring how various groups might collaborate to best contribute to future policy-making.

Think-Tank participants were guided through a Scenario Planning process to develop four plausible scenarios for the future of the State. The process involved exploration of local trends and forces of change; development of a scenario matrix defining four plausible scenario spaces for the future; and, the development of descriptive narratives of each scenario. The event concluded with discussion of the scenarios, selection of a preferred scenario, consequences of inaction.
6.0 CREATING THE SCENARIO FRAMEWORK

Based on the Pre-Think-Tank survey responses and key input from IDNR staff, themes were identified to become the basis for two axes on the scenario matrix. The two axes identified were Changing Societal Attitudes and Behavior and Impacts of Technology and Policy.

Think-Tank participants were presented with the scenario matrix, defined by the two major axes of ‘Changing Societal Attitudes and Behavior’ and ‘Impacts of Technology and Policy’ (see diagram). Brief descriptions were also attached to the end points of each driver axes. Participants were divided into four groups to develop a narrative for each scenario. Each group was asked to describe the characteristics of Iowa waste management in 2030 under the conditions of the scenario quadrant that they had been given. After the characteristics were established, Think-Tank participants were asked to devise major events or headlines of how the scenario occurred using the years 2020, 2025, and 2030, and to give their scenario a descriptive name. Narratives and descriptions of each scenario as developed by the workshop participants are included in the following sections.
6.1 SCENARIO A: TOSS AND TECH

This scenario forecasts a future where societal attitudes and behavior remain consumption based and there is no effort to curb material desires or waste production. Online retail continues to increase, and the priority is on delivering individual consumer choice at the lowest price possible. More complex packaging creates an expanded array of products being used for packaging to deal with the increased waste. To deal with the increased volume of waste, policy decisions encourage innovation and technology driven solutions to waste production. Single stream MRF improvements include optical sorters and robots to improve sorting and material recovery with less labor costs to improve profitability for operators. Use of anaerobic digestion and pyrolysis increases, and new public-private partnerships form to expand funding resources for materials waste management.
SCENARIO A CHARACTERISTICS - Toss and Tech – 2030

The characteristics of this scenario paint a future where Iowa deals with increased waste production by using technology to mitigate the impacts of excessive resource use and material waste production. Consumer sentiment is not about preservation but rather choice and is oriented towards unlimited consumption. A focus on innovation propels the industry to adopt next generation waste management technologies, but over time cannot keep up with materials management sustainably.

Consumption Patterns and Waste Types

Per person consumption rates increase as online retail provides abundant choice and price competitiveness.

- Recycling and solid waste production increases proportionally requiring more advanced technical solutions.
- Waste types see a decrease in paper, more corrugated materials and plastics, and more complex packaging especially single serving containers and ‘on the go’ food.
- Technology innovation follows where the waste materials are directed: landfills, recycling facilities, anaerobic digestion, etc.

Policy Setting and Application of Technology

Policy makers seek next generation waste management technologies to deal with the increased waste and dwindling resources.

- New funding sources are needed to cover cost of waste disposal; this includes tip fee increases, collection and non-compliance fees and advanced disposal fees on electronics, core charges and tires.
- Single stream MRF technology improvements include optical sorters, robots to improve sorting, anaerobic digesters, and material recovery with less labor costs and improved profitability.
- Policy focus includes assigning waste generators responsibilities such as taking back materials and financially versatile transfer stations.

Waste Management Systems Being Utilized

A variety of waste management systems are being used to accommodate the increase of consumer waste.

- Creative partnerships emerge to effectively and efficiently process the increased waste of consumers, in particular public-private partnerships.
- Consideration is given to expanding land use regulations to deal with materials management if necessary. Farm lands are reduced.
- Waste processing is funded by waste generators.

2020 HEADLINE NEWS: “Packaging waste increases exponentially”

2025 HEADLINE NEWS: “Businesses and residents push back on new waste policy and fees”

2030 HEADLINE NEWS: “Automation at MRF and improved source separation increases marketability of recovered materials”
6.2 SCENARIO B: SYSTEMS THINKING

This scenario forecasts a future where use of technology solutions and environmentally-friendly policy ensure materials are designed, used and disposed of in the most environmental and sustainable ways. Society maintains a culture of collective responsibility and shared solutions that takes a systems-wide sustainable approach to materials management. A focus on technology that incorporates life-cycle processes propels Iowa into a national leadership position on sustainable materials management. Proactive policies that anticipate changing societal attitudes and behavior towards consumerism are funded and implemented and the goals of zero-waste industries become a reality.

By adopting a Systems Thinking approach to sustainable materials management, Iowans will become effective stewards of the environment.
In the "Systems Thinking" scenario, focus is on finding the "highest and best" use for everything.

SCENARIO B CHARACTERISTICS - Systems Thinking – 2030

The characteristics of this scenario paint a future where Iowa uses technology to completely integrate systems that deal with waste and materials management. Societal values emphasizing the reduce, reuse, recycle philosophy drive a sense of collective responsibility for the prevention of environmental degradation. A complete closed-loop system is idealized and sought.

Consumption Patterns and Waste Types

A culture of collective responsibility and shared solutions prevails.
- Iowa invests more dollars and provides policies that emphasize ‘sharing’ resources over consumption of products.
- Production aided by technology produces more local, edible food crops reducing transportation and packaging needs.
- Technology innovations create opportunities for eliminating unnecessary consumption, unnecessary use of inputs/chemicals, wasted food, etc.

Policy Setting and Application of Technology

Technology and policies ensure materials are designed in the most environmentally and sustainable manner.
- Policies are integrated to prioritize sustainable materials management (hazard mitigation, land use, transportation, building codes, energy & water policy, etc.)
- Investments leverage and provide multiple use benefits; example - roads are also storm water, air quality, public art, community spaces, and local food production opportunities.
- Policies focus on Life Cycle and energy reduction first and drive thinking about what we are making, how we make it, why we are making it, and with what materials.

Waste Management Systems Being Utilized

Waste management becomes a true systems approach and goes beyond municipal solid waste management.
- New and highly automated MRFs are doing more than managing materials.
- Waste management becomes truly a ‘system’ from need to design, to manufacturing, to transportation, to consumption, upcycling, energy recovery to disposal.

2020 HEADLINE NEWS:
“"Iowa invests in technology and policies to change approach to waste management”

2025 HEADLINE NEWS:
“"Iowa replicates ‘complete streets’ approach to materials management”

2030 HEADLINE NEWS:
“"Technologies and policies changes behavior along entire supply chain”"
6.3 SCENARIO C: HOARD AND STORE

This scenario forecasts a future where consumers are highly educated about recycling and reuse, but there is no political will at the governmental level to enact strict policies. There is a lack of funding for next generation waste management technologies, and landfills continue to be the management solution of choice. Over time, as newer technology ages and becomes less expensive, this scenario sees those technologies added to the options available to mitigate the impacts of landfill use and increased packaging waste. This approach to materials management bogs down in the long-run as its low-tech, low-cost approach cannot keep up with consumer and producer waste production.
SCENARIO C CHARACTERISTICS - Hoard and Store – 2030

The characteristics of this scenario paint a future where Iowa seeks to pursue integrated local waste management systems. Consumer pressure to adopt environmentally sound policies are recognized at the local level, but there is no political will or funding at the State or Federal level. Iowa is a follower, not a leader in the transition from waste management to materials management.

Consumption Patterns and Waste Types
Society has a high-level understanding of environmental impact along with the financial impacts.

- This is an avid recycling society focused on reduction through education, material management and access to infrastructure.
- Manufacturers make the decision for reduced and easily recycled packaging along with extended lifecycles through replaceable parts.
- Iowans recognize the value of reduce, reuse, recycle, but desire low-cost solutions and traditional approaches to waste management.

Policy Setting and Application of Technology
At the government level, there is very little policy making and no technology investments.

- Driven by consumer demand, manufacturers make the decisions to bring in technology and reduced waste in manufacturing principles. Lowest cost solutions are sought.
- Efforts are made to provide education on waste management with local infrastructure and manufacturing.
- No regulatory changes cause Iowa to fall behind in the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management.

Waste Management Systems Being Utilized
Current waste management systems continue to be utilized.

- Iowa continues to use existing landfills while at the same time using a ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ approach.
- Iowa is a follower, not a leader in waste management technologies.
- As technology costs come down and society pushes manufacturers to reuse and recycle, there would be a shift towards pulling more out of the landfill stream.

2020 HEADLINE NEWS: 
“No regulatory changes in store for immediate future”

2025 HEADLINE NEWS: 
“Manufacturers respond to Iowans’ demands for sustainable materials in packaging”

2030 HEADLINE NEWS: 
“Iowans come together with a common goal for sustainable materials management”
6.4 SCENARIO D: DARK CLOUD

This scenario forecasts a future where Iowa slowly becomes overwhelmed with waste. Society remains consumption based with complete disregard for the impacts of its orientation. Rural areas and increasingly dense urban areas experience educational challenges and resistance regarding needed changes in waste management practice and policies. There is no funding or political support to transition to a sustainable materials management approach in Iowa. Low employment rates make MRFs struggle to find a labor force to manage an increasingly overburdened waste management system. Iowa sees a decrease in usable farm land due to increased landfill needs.

The “Dark Cloud” scenario portrays the worst possible outcomes for the future of waste management in Iowa. Maintaining the status quo in waste management would have severe negative consequences for Iowa’s living and built environments.
SCENARIO D CHARACTERISTICS - Dark Cloud – 2030

The characteristics of this scenario paint a picture where a dark cloud of waste-produced pollution gradually fills the land, air, and water resources of Iowa. The impacts of a low-cost, low-tech approach to materials management cannot keep up with consumer demand and resources are slowly depleted.

**Consumption Patterns and Waste Types**
The consumer focus is on lowest cost packaging and high-volume online retail use.

- Online retail sales is causing increased demand for refillable, reusable and recyclable packaging materials for homes and supply chain.
- Messaging becomes increasingly conflicted about materials management.
- Food waste diversion and composting remains limited.

**Policy Setting and Application of Technology**
With no change in policies, Iowa waste management continues with limited change.

- Product stewardship involves a deposit system for electronics and HHM materials to place more burden on manufacturers and retailers.
- Recycled cardboard is banned at local landfills as a low-cost policy option.
- Iowa loses its Bottle Bill contributing to additional waste production across the State.

**Waste Management Systems Being Utilized**
Waste management systems are localized and there is a reliance on people for waste collection and MRFs to sort and manage waste.

- There is a reliance on coal plants to burn trash and biomass for energy recovery (cement kilns), and a continued increase of landfills to manage waste.
- Environmental quality is at an all-time low due in part to failed recycling markets.
- Severe environmental losses occur in the areas of water, air (due to climate change), resources, and land for agriculture.

---

2020 HEADLINE NEWS:
“Major box store closes brick and mortar store for increased online retail”

2025 HEADLINE NEWS:
“Iowa legislature kills Bottle Bill”

2030 HEADLINE NEWS:
“DOT overwhelmed by litter: Litter increases by 50% in roads and ditches”
7.0 EXPECTED AND PREFERRED FUTURES

7.1 EXPECTED FUTURE – SCENARIO D – DARK CLOUD

The expected future is one deemed most likely to happen if there is no change in the current trajectory of materials management in Iowa. Workshop participants mostly indicated that Scenario D, “Dark Cloud”, is the scenario they believed represented the expected future for materials management in the State of Iowa. Think Tank participants discussed the importance of timing and gave a sense of urgency to making the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management in order to avoid the “Dark Cloud” scenario.

Iowa Sustainable Materials Management Think-Tank Heatmap

FUTURE INSIGHTS:

- The path to the expected future may be considered less costly and allow for greater consumer freedom in the short run, but this will eventually cause resource shortages and irreversible environmental damage in the long-run.
- With apathy and lack of political will considered two of the biggest threats to facing the future of waste management in Iowa, unified and concerted policy directives will be needed to change course from the expected future.
7.2 PREFERRED FUTURE – SCENARIO B – SYSTEMS THINKING

While each of the scenarios were viewed as plausible, Think-Tank participants expressed a clear preference for one of the presented outcomes, Scenario B, “Systems Thinking”. Think-Tank participants discussed the critical need to both utilize new technologies and shift policy and local sentiment to support the integrated systems conditions of Scenario B. Noting a societal reconfiguring in demographics, the millennial cohort is considered significant to this effort in that research shows they are very concerned about environmental degradation, resource and materials usage, and have made these issues political priorities.

Future Insights:

- A definite preference for the Systems Thinking scenario indicates a clear mandate for leadership to take actions that support that vision for the future.
- The scenario title “Systems Thinking” was significant to participants in that it intended to represent the need for collective responsibility and shared solutions for materials management in the State of Iowa.
8.0 NEXT STEPS – GETTING TO THE PREFERRED FUTURE

Think-Tank participants discussed the ramifications and implications of failing to achieve the preferred future. There was strong alignment among participants that Scenario B, “Systems Thinking” represented the preferred scenario for Iowa, with a recognition that the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management needs to be accelerated in order to avoid long-term and potentially irreversible damage to the planet. This speed of change was deemed possible through the rapid development of technological solutions coupled with effective policy-making.

Iowa Sustainable Materials Management Think-Tank Heatmaps

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**FUTURE INSIGHTS:**

- To achieve the preferred future, Think-Tank participants discussed a ‘Complete Streets’ approach to waste management. This approach would expand the current boundaries of integrated waste management to address sustainable materials management and the product value chain with its environmental life cycle analysis.

- Reducing consumption through ‘sharing’ economies supported by technology would be a significant step in the direction of the preferred future for Iowans.
9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The IDNR stakeholders engaged in the Think-Tank workshop and discussions with great enthusiasm. Their passion and interest ensured the discussions were thoughtful, and the outcomes reflective of the State’s perspectives. This dedication is reflective of the deep commitment Think-Tank participants have to the future of their communities, local industries, and materials waste management in Iowa.

Future iQ would like to acknowledge the substantial support from IDNR staff. Their outstanding support at the Think-Tank was greatly appreciated.

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Christine Collier, SCS Engineers**
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*Represented the Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operations
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11.0 ABOUT BURNS & MCDONNELL

Burns & McDonnell is a full-service engineering, architecture, construction, environmental and consulting solutions firm, based in Kansas City, Missouri. Our staff of 7,000 includes engineers, architects, construction professionals, planners, estimators, economists, technicians and scientists. Our Solid Waste and Resource Recovery group assists public and private clients throughout North America with one mission in mind: Make our clients successful.

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12.0 ABOUT FUTURE IQ

Future iQ specializes in applying innovative tools and approaches to assist municipalities, organizations, regions and industries shape their economic and community futures. With nearly two decades of experience, the company has a global clientele spanning three continents. To learn more about Future iQ, and our recent projects visit [www.future-iq.com](http://www.future-iq.com) or by email at [info@future-iq.com](mailto:info@future-iq.com)

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Iowa Department of Natural Resources

IOWA SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

STRATEGIC VISION FOR IOWA REPORT

The report has been developed by Future iQ and Burns & McDonnell as part of the development of a vision for the transition from an integrated solid waste management policy to a sustainable materials management policy for the State of Iowa and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The strategic vision is based on input from a benchmarking research report, the Iowa DNR Future Think-Tank Workshop, stakeholder surveys, Iowa DNR stakeholder Focus Group meetings and direct input from the (DNR) project steering team.

Report Prepared by:

future iQ
Create Future Intelligence®
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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 1987 Iowa Groundwater Protection Act and 1989 Iowa Waste Reduction and Recycling Act were enacted to foster the protection of Iowa’s human health and environment. Iowa’s waste management hierarchy was enacted as part of this legislation and has been used to guide statewide policy making, setting program priorities, developing solid waste comprehensive plans, and providing financial assistance for the last 30 years. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) serves as the primary state agency leading program implementation guided by this policy framework.

Iowa’s existing solid waste management system focuses primarily on waste discards and how to manage a material at the end of its useful life. However, waste management systems and polices continue to evolve, and sustainable materials management (SMM) approaches are becoming more prevalent. SMM focuses on the best use and management of materials based on how they impact the environment throughout their life cycle.

As a result, the DNR has undertaken a statewide planning process to create a vision to guide Iowa solid waste management policy using SMM as its foundation. The process was initiated with the gathering of input from a broad set of stakeholders through a dynamic planning process. This visioning process used a unique scenario planning methodology to explore future directions and implications. The report that follows provides the outcomes from this process and reflects support from a range of stakeholder interests to develop a clear vision for moving towards a preferred future with SMM.

Other states making the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management have been challenged to identify a preferred set of metrics for measuring impacts to public health and environment, as well as long-term sustainable funding mechanisms. Iowa’s vision for sustainable materials management should address these two key program planning elements as a foundation for moving forward, including proposed policy changes to achieve the sustainable materials management vision.

This report represents the first step in creating a statewide SMM vision and we encourage you to join us in this process to define the solid waste management strategy to better protect Iowa’s human health and environment for the future.

Information related to Iowa Sustainable Materials Management – Vision for the Future can be read and downloaded at www.iowadnr.gov/SMM.
2.0 INTRODUCTION

Scope of Research

Benchmarking was conducted for a shortlist of state sustainable materials management (SMM) programs and policies. Per feedback from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Iowa DNR) project steering team, the following state programs were reviewed in detail to provide insight into their respective visioning processes and outcomes.

- Minnesota
- Vermont
- Maine
- Oregon
- Tennessee

The benchmarking research addressed the following SMM program elements:

- Planning process used by respective states to transition to SMM
- Key SMM principles and objectives
- Statewide SMM policies and programs identified for implementation
- Program funding
- Other relevant details

Based on this research, provided below is a summary matrix highlighting key program elements for each of the respective states, as well as the state of Iowa.

Program Elements Benchmarking Summary

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Findings and Conclusions

Upon review of the information gathered during the benchmarking research, provided below are the key finding and conclusions:

- **While the principles of SMM encourage a wholistic approach to materials management, in many instances, statewide SMM programs are still presently linked to waste reduction and diversion goals.** For example, Minnesota and Oregon have identified the need to transition to goals that reflect SMM principles and measure specific environmental impacts. Minnesota has identified the goal to transition to recyclable material capture rates to more efficiently measure and improve upon material recycling rates – but has not yet implemented specific material capture rate goals, standards, or guidance. The state of Oregon has set greenhouse gas emissions goals (GHG), but has not clearly tied those goals to their SMM statewide policy goals and objectives. However, both states are taking steps to transition to SMM metrics by developing more detailed planning documents and commissioning Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) studies to quantify the life cycle impacts of specific products and materials.

- **Respective state funding mechanisms are not likely sustainable in the long-term.** Tipping fee surcharges are still the common revenue source for state waste management programs. This program funding approach is not sustainable over the long term given anticipated increased landfill diversion through SMM policies. Many states have recognized this issue through their planning processes and have begun to actively explore alternative methods of funding for SMM programs.

- **States transitioning to a SMM system prioritize the program strategies of increased organics diversion and fostering materials stewardship.** Organic wastes, specifically food wastes, make up a large percentage of the municipal solid waste stream based on numerous statewide waste characterization studies. By prioritizing organic waste reduction, composting, and energy recovery, states have identified significant SMM benefits including GHG reduction, resource savings, and materials diversion. Materials stewardship strategies are designed to manage the environmental impacts of materials and goods at different stages in their production, use and disposal. Materials stewardship is also based on a shared responsibility by those involved in production, use and disposal. Through shared responsibility, improvements in the protection of public health and the environment can be fairly and economically achieved.
3.0 OVERVIEW OF FORCES SHAPING THE FUTURE

The Think-Tank Workshop and Focus Groups provided forums for Iowa DNR stakeholders to explore the forces of change shaping the future of Sustainable Materials Management in the State of Iowa. Participants at all three sessions explored four areas of emerging macro trends and forces of change. Perceptions around the nature of impact of these trends, both in terms of size and timing of impact, were explored to gauge how important participants consider the trends. Participants discussed the emerging trends on global, regional and local scales, and related them directly to sustainable materials management in terms of how well prepared they considered the State of Iowa. Specifically, the trend areas were:

- Demographics, population and mass urbanization
- Changing macro-economics and societal values
- Energy, food, water and changing climate
- Technology, and the next industrial revolution

Of particular relevance to the discussion on trends is the speed and scale of change occurring. Newly developed innovations are being implemented globally and locally at all scales, thereby changing the face of industries and society in a rapid and profound way. Manufacturing is at the forefront of this transformation, but other industries are also quickly developing such as agriculture, health care, biomedical research, infrastructure, energy, transportation and mobility, shipping and logistics, food services, hospitality, financial services, and retail.
4.0 SUMMARY OF ENGAGEMENT PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The Iowa DNR’s Phase 1 visioning process took place from November 2018 to September 2019. In order to build a comprehensive vision for sustainable materials management that is supported by Iowa stakeholders and Iowa DNR leadership, the Iowa DNR embarked on a participatory engagement planning process involving planning meetings, an online Think-Tank survey, a Think-Tank workshop, a Focus Group survey, two state-wide stakeholder focus group meetings, a state-wide public vision survey and meetings with the Iowa DNR steering team. This engagement was intended to create a vision that would establish the foundation of support upon which more targeted planning could be developed to guide the Iowa DNR into Phase 2 of this project.

Three reports have been prepared as part of the Sustainable Materials Management – Vision for Iowa visioning process and may be downloaded at: https://www.iowadnr.gov/SMM

**IDNR Sustainable Materials Management – Vision for Iowa Timeline (Phase 1)**

- **November-December 2018**: Initial Strategy Meeting and Calls
- **January-February 2019**: Planning Meetings and Calls
- **March-May 2019**: Iowa DNR Vision for Iowa Think-Tank
- **June-August 2019**: Iowa DNR Vision for Iowa Focus Groups
- **September-October 2019**: Final Report and Planning Calls

**FUTURE INSIGHT:**

- The success of the Iowa DNR’s visioning will be dependent on continued strong Iowa DNR leadership with significant stakeholder and public policy support in its implementation.
- The aim of Iowa DNR’s vision for sustainable materials management will serve as a guide for future sustainable materials management related actions.
5.0 CREATING SHARED VISION AND DIRECTION

5.1 TRANSITIONING TO SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

The 1987 Iowa Groundwater Protection Act and the 1989 Waste Volume Reduction and Recycling Act put into motion significant changes to policy directions concerning issues and opportunities in solid waste management in Iowa. Most significantly, these key pieces of legislation serve as a framework for integrated solid waste management which is the basis for Iowa solid waste management today. The primary purpose for these legislative actions was protecting human health and the environment.

5.1.1 IMPORTANCE OF THE TRANSITION

The initial survey sent to Think-Tank participants included a question about the importance of the transition from an integrated solid waste management policy to a sustainable materials management policy approach. The vast majority of Think-Tank participants considered the transition important to critically important.

How important do you think it is for Iowa to transition from an integrated solid waste management policy to a sustainable materials management policy? (Aiming for the highest and best use of discarded materials and improved environmental protection). SCALE: 1 = Not at all important; 10 = Critically important

DATA INSIGHTS:

- Consistent advocacy for policy change at the legislative level will be necessary to move from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management in the State of Iowa.
- The key to the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management will be the long-term sustainability of the required changes.
5.1.2 PREFERRED TIMING OF THE TRANSITION

To determine when the transition from waste management to sustainable materials management should take place, Think-Tank survey participants were asked how likely the transition would occur in the near future. The majority of respondents leaned towards the definite possibility that it would happen, however a third of respondents questioned the speed of the transition.

How likely do you think there will be a transition from an integrated solid waste management policy approach to a sustainable materials management policy approach in the near future? (Move to aiming for the highest and best use of discarded materials and improved environmental protection) SCALE: 1 = Not at all likely; 10 = Definitely will happen

DATA INSIGHTS:

- The transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management will take time and require significant support and collaboration.
- Given participants’ views about the anticipated timing of the transition, the Iowa DNR, private sector business and industry and the Iowa legislature will need to take a proactive leadership position with respect to the State’s transition from integrated solid waste management to a sustainable materials management approach.
5.2 SCENARIO FRAMEWORK AND DATA VISUALIZATION

The visioning process used a unique scenario planning methodology to explore future directions and implications. This approach helps stakeholders understand the full range of impacts and consequences of various decisions as they seek a preferred future.

The following diagram was developed with Iowa DNR stakeholders at the May 2019 Think-Tank. The scenario planning process creates four plausible versions of the future, built around the main themes of ‘Changing societal attitudes and behavior’ and ‘Impact of technology and policy’. The process allows stakeholders to think about the future in a multidimensional manner. More detail on the process is available in the Iowa Sustainable Materials Management Vision for Iowa Think-Tank Report, May 2019. For more information, visit: https://www.iowadnr.gov/SMM.

The scenario-planning process provides a way to tease out plausible future scenarios and examine them from a speculative standpoint. They represent different possibilities for the future.
### 5.3 Alignment Around the Preferred Future

Think-Tank and Focus Group participants were both asked to engage in plausibility mapping around expected and preferred futures. The expected future is one deemed most likely to happen if there is no change in the current trajectory of waste management in Iowa. The preferred future is the type of future participants ideally want to see happen recognizing that most often steps will be needed to get there. There was strong alignment among both Think-Tank and Focus Group participants on expected and preferred futures.

#### 5.3.1 Think-Tank Alignment

Think-Tank participants discussed the ramifications and implications of failing to achieve the preferred future. Most of the participants agreed that Scenario D, “Dark Cloud”, is the scenario they believe represented the expected future for Iowa waste management if no critical policy changes were made. There was strong alignment among participants that Scenario B, “Systems Thinking” represented the preferred scenario for Iowa, with a recognition that the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management needs to be accelerated in order to avoid long-term and potentially irreversible damage to the environment.

**Iowa Sustainable Materials Management Think-Tank Heatmaps**

- **Expected Future – 2030**
- **Preferred Future – 2030**

**Future Insights:**
- To achieve the preferred future, Think-Tank participants discussed an all encompassing approach to waste management. This approach would expand the current boundaries of integrated waste management to address sustainable materials management and the product value chain with its environmental life cycle analysis.
- Reducing consumption through ‘sharing’ economies reuse and repair supported by technology would be a key step in the direction of the preferred future for Iowans.
5.3.2 FOCUS GROUP ALIGNMENT

In early August 2019, participants from two Iowa DNR stakeholder Focus Groups also discussed expected and preferred futures for sustainable materials management in Iowa. Focus Group participants were relatively evenly split between Scenarios A (Toss and Tech) and D (Dark Cloud) as the expected future for Iowa. Among Focus Group participants, there was a more optimistic view that Iowa would inevitably adopt new technologies over time and that accounted for the variation in thinking about expected futures between the Think-Tank and Focus Group participants. Like the Think-Tank participants, there was strong alignment among Focus Group participants that Scenario B, “Systems Thinking” represented the preferred future for Iowa. The speed of change required to achieve the preferred future was deemed possible through rapid industry development of technological solutions for sustainable materials management.

Below are samples of Focus Group participant survey comments and ideas on making the transition to sustainable materials management:

- “We are at a crossroads, the urgency is real and the clock is loudly ticking.”
- “Think importance of space program to sustainable technology.”
- “Priorities need to shift.”
- “Recycling has to be easier for the consumer.”
- “Thank you, DNR, for leading the change on this.”
5.4 DRIVERS OF CHANGE ANALYSIS

To analyze perceived drivers and potential influences on waste management in Iowa, Think-Tank survey participants were asked about the importance of changes in some topic areas over time, as well as Iowa’s performance in addressing these drivers of change. Results from a combination of the two responses are also provided below.

5.4.1 IMPORTANCE OF DRIVERS OF CHANGE

To gauge the importance of the inevitable impact of changes over time, Think-Tank survey respondents were asked how important changes in the following issues and sectors will be to waste management in Iowa.

For the following ‘drivers of change’, how important you think they are in shaping the future of waste management in Iowa?

**SCALE: 1 = Not at all important; 10 = Critically important**

**DATA INSIGHTS:**

- Survey respondents considered markets and pricing for recyclable materials and product packaging design changes as the most important drivers of change in shaping the future of waste management in Iowa.
- Acknowledgement that implementing priority drivers of change will not diminish the valuable service landfills provide in protecting public health and the environment.
5.4.2 IOWA’S PERFORMANCE IN ADDRESSING DRIVERS OF CHANGE

To assess how well the State of Iowa is addressing drivers of change, Think-Tank survey respondents were asked to rate the State’s performance. Below are the results.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How well is Iowa currently addressing the following ‘drivers of change’? SCALE: 1 = Not very well; 10 = Very well</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Changing attitudes of Iowa’s citizens’ desire for sustainable waste management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing solid waste management regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government regulations restricting land use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased producer/manufacturer’s responsibility for materials reuse and recycling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markets and pricing for recyclable materials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More efficient distribution and transportation systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More efficient product manufacturing and technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New materials recovery (recycling) technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product packaging design changes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid waste conversion technologies (e.g., energy from waste)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste diversion and recycling goals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DATA INSIGHTS:

- Iowa was considered by survey respondents to not perform well in several areas with the poorest performance in the areas of product packaging design changes and increasing producers’/manufacturers’ role for materials reuse and recycling.
- Consumer and producer education will play a key role in helping the State of Iowa make the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management.
- Legislative support is critical to the transition toward sustainable materials management as the policy of the State of Iowa.
5.4.3 COMBINED IMPORTANCE OF DRIVERS OF CHANGE AND IOWA’S PERFORMANCE

In order to get a sense of how Think-Tank participants looked at both the importance of the given drivers of change and Iowa’s performance on them, this analysis combines the two questions to create a scatter plot. The data visualization shows the response data as it relates to all 12 drivers. The chart presents the average results based on all responses.

The X-axis is the response to the question: ‘For the following drivers of change, how important do you think they are in shaping the future of waste management in Iowa?’

The Y-axis is the response to the question ‘How well is Iowa currently addressing the following drivers of change?’ Scale 1=Not very well, 10=Very well

**DATA INSIGHTS:**

- Almost all of the responses are grouped in the quadrant that is broadly defined as ‘Important and Not Performing Well’. This outcome reflects key stakeholders’ perspective that Iowa needs to better understand how drivers of change influence future policy.

- The drivers were all assessed as important, with some such as Product Design and Packaging considered as Critically Important. Thus, key stakeholders consider the transition to Sustainable Materials Management requiring the navigating of a complex pathway.
5.5 APPETITE FOR CHANGE TO SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Following the Think-Tank, information from the benchmark research, Think-Tank surveys, Think-Tank input and Iowa DNR staff input was compiled to create a new survey for the Focus Group participants. The purpose of the survey was to ascertain appetite for change and potential ideas and approaches that could be taken to make the transition from an integrated solid waste management policy to a sustainable materials management policy in Iowa. To explore the types of strategies that may be developed to achieve the transition, six sample approaches were used to test appetite for change and direction. Below are the results.

5.5.1 APPROACH

To gauge whether the six sample approaches were viable, Focus Group participants were asked to rate how important they thought each approach is to support the transition from an integrated solid waste management policy to a sustainable materials management policy in Iowa. All of the approaches were considered very important.

How important do you think the following approaches are for Sustainable Materials Management in Iowa?

SCALE: 1 = Not at all important; 5 = Critically important

Focus Group participants overwhelmingly considered all six sample approaches as very important to the transition from an integrated solid waste management policy to a sustainable materials management policy in Iowa.

FUTURE INSIGHTS

- As noted in the benchmark report, States transitioning to sustainable materials management prioritize organics diversion and materials stewardship.
- The principles of sustainable materials management encourage a wholistic approach, including the role of landfills, to goal setting in the development of strategies to achieve the transition from waste management.
5.5.2 LONG-TERM VISION

Making the transition to a sustainable materials management will take time. Understanding that both Think-Tank and Focus Group participants consider Scenario B, ‘Systems Thinking’, as the preferred future for sustainable materials management in Iowa, Focus Group participants were also asked about the importance of having a long-term vision to achieve the preferred future. The vast majority of Focus Group respondents considered a long-term vision very important to critically important.

How important do you think it is to have a long-term vision and commitment for Sustainable Materials Management in Iowa? SCALE: 1 = Not at all important; 5 = Critically Important

FUTURE INSIGHTS

- A shared vision was identified as very important by over 95% of Focus Group participants. This points to a strong preference to collaborate on strategies to transition to sustainable materials management in Iowa.
- The high level of agreement on the importance of aligning perspectives and striving for a long-term vision for sustainable materials management will help design a new system through collaboration, understanding issues, conducting life cycle analysis on key materials and products to develop a clear picture of the most appropriate way to manage a waste protecting human health and the environment.
5.5.3 TRANSITION

Early in the visioning process, Think-Tank participants were asked about the importance of the transition from an integrated solid waste management policy to a sustainable materials management policy approach. The vast majority of Think-Tank participants considered the transition important to critically important. Focus Group participants were also asked how important they considered the transition. Again, the vast majority of Focus Group respondents considered the transition very important to critically important.

How important do you think it is for Iowa to transition from managing waste at the point of disposal to a sustainable materials management policy? (Using and reusing materials in the most productive and sustainable ways, to minimize materials use and related environmental impacts.) SCALE: 1 = Not at all important; 5 = Critically Important

FUTURE INSIGHTS

- The importance of the transition from an integrated waste management policy to a sustainable materials management policy was considered very important to critically important by 94% of all Focus Group participants. This gives the Iowa DNR a clear directive to pursue this transition.

- Given the gap between expected and preferred futures, increasing awareness and understanding by consumers, producers and legislators of the importance and benefits of managing materials to better protect human health and the environment in order to achieve the transition.
5.5.4 WILLINGNESS TO PAY

One measure of appetite for change is the willingness of consumers and taxpayers to pay for change. Focus Group participants were asked “how willing are the stakeholders to pay more to support a transition to sustainable materials management.” Focus Group participants overwhelmingly considered themselves more willing to pay for change. The state of Iowa may choose an approach that includes a redistribution of the current program funds to make the transition to sustainable materials management.

Iowa DNR Stakeholders: Would YOU be willing to pay more to support a sustainable and environmentally protective approach to waste management in Iowa? SCALE: 1 = Not at all likely; 5 = Definitely would

FUTURE INSIGHTS

- Iowa DNR stakeholder willingness to pay for the transition to a sustainable materials management policy models the leadership that will be required to implement the transition.
- Funding mechanisms, including the potential redistribution of existing program funds, have been identified as a critical area for development to support a long-term sustainable materials management policy.
5.6 PRIORITIZING STRATEGIES

5.6.1 FOCUS GROUPS

As an exercise to explore how Focus Group participants would prioritize six potential strategies to sustainable materials management, participants were asked to apply ten dots of two colors to a chart listing the approaches over two timeframes. These strategies represented a mix of stakeholder education, collaboration with key stakeholders, and policy incentives/mandates. Participants were instructed to place one color in years 1-5 and the other in years 6-10, with the intent to show which approaches should be prioritized over the next 10 years. Below are the prioritized results.

Cedar Rapids Focus Group, 7 August 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approach / Timeframe</th>
<th>1-5 Years</th>
<th>6-10 Years</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remove single-use plastic from the waste stream (e.g. drink bottles, straws, etc.)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the composting of organic waste (Includes food, grass clippings, etc.)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support packaging that can be more easily recycled</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the reduction, reuse and recycling of materials</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with businesses and industry to find innovative methods to utilize waste materials for beneficial reuse</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educate Iowa citizens about the importance of sustainable materials management</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Des Moines Focus Group, 8 August 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approach / Timeframe</th>
<th>1-5 Years</th>
<th>6-10 Years</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Remove single-use plastic from the waste stream (e.g. drink bottles, straws, etc.)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the composting of organic waste (Includes food, grass clippings, etc.)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support packaging that can be more easily recycled</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase the reduction, reuse and recycling of materials</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with businesses and industry to find innovative methods to utilize waste materials for beneficial reuse</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educate Iowa citizens about the importance of sustainable materials management</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.6.2 SUMMARY

The Iowa DNR Iowa Sustainable Materials Management Vision for Iowa visioning process has provided a clear mandate for a transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management in the State of Iowa. The gap between expected and preferred futures as illustrated in the stakeholder data visualization below indicate a definite need for change in strategy and public policy. It should be noted that the sample strategies explored to move in the direction of this change are not exclusive but may be used to form the basis for next steps in the transitioning process.

From Expected to Preferred Future

FUTURE INSIGHTS

- Policy development to achieve the preferred future for Iowa sustainable materials management will require a shift in both societal attitudes and behaviors, as well as an increased use of technology driven solutions and recognition of the health and environmental impacts of the status quo.

- The long-term success of the transition from an integrated solid waste policy to a sustainable materials management policy will be dependent on building strong collaboration among all stakeholders, including consumers, producers, private industry, and all waste generators.

- Short and long-term success will be dependent on a sustainable funding source(s) to implement sustainable materials management programs, develop appropriate infrastructure and to provide incentives and financial assistance to manage materials in the most impactful and sustainable manner.
6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 VISION FRAMEWORK

The Sustainable Materials Management planning process reflects support from a range of stakeholder interests to develop a clear vision for moving towards a preferred future. The preferred future should include both fostering a change in societal attitudes and behaviors related to waste and materials management accompanied by increased use of technology driven solutions.

Other states making the transition from integrated solid waste management to sustainable materials management have been challenged to identify a preferred set of metrics for measuring impacts to public health and the environment and long-term sustainable funding mechanisms. Iowa’s vision for sustainable materials management should address these two key program planning elements as a foundation for moving forward including proposed policy changes to achieve the sustainable materials management vision.

It is recommended the strategies to support the sustainable materials management vision and respective program goals be based in a combination of education, collaboration, funding, innovation, and legislative policy initiatives. A number of tools are needed to effectively make this transition to sustainable materials management. The process will be an incremental one, but a clear understanding of the preferred future will enhance the likelihood of success.
6.2 NEXT STEPS

Based on the outcomes of Sustainable Materials Management – Vision for Iowa, Phase 1 planning process, the following next steps are recommended:

1. Solicit input and feedback from the general public as part of the planning process.
2. Use the deliverables from Phase 1 to inform and educate key legislators and associated staff about the importance of Iowa’s vision to transition to sustainable materials management.
3. Establish a roundtable with environmental agency representatives from select states making the transition to sustainable materials management as a forum to discuss critical transition issues (e.g. metrics, funding) and lessons learned.
4. Reconvene the Think-Tank to review the results from the stakeholder meetings and identify a shortlist of strategies for more detailed evaluation and strategy development.
5. Upon identifying the shortlist of preferred strategies, establish a set of working committees composed of applicable stakeholder representatives to develop a description of each strategy, applicable actions, timeline, and responsible parties to formulate a specific roadmap for Iowa to transition to sustainable materials management.
7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The IDNR stakeholders engaged in the Think-Tank workshop and focus group discussions with great enthusiasm. Their passion and interest ensured the discussions were thoughtful, and the outcomes reflective of the State’s perspectives. This dedication is reflective of the deep commitment all participants have to the future of their communities, local industries, and sustainable materials management in Iowa.

Future iQ and Burns & McDonnell would like to acknowledge the substantial support from IDNR staff. Their outstanding support throughout the project was greatly appreciated. Thank you also to the Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operations (ISOSWO) for providing food and refreshments for the Think-Tank and stakeholder meeting participants.

IDNR Think-Tank and Focus Group Participants

Paige Alesch, Iowa Waste Exchange
Aubrey Alvarez, Eat Greater Des Moines
Mark Armstrong, Container Recovery Inc. (CRINC)
Lucas Beenken, Iowa State Association of Counties
Joe Bolick, Iowa Waste Reduction Center
Erin Boyd, Iowa Waste Exchange
John Bruce, Iowa Waste Exchange
Harlan Buxbaum, Dee Zee, Inc.
Cory Carr, 3M - Knoxville
Dan Cohen, Buchanan Co. Conservation Board
Matt Cross, Midwest Sanitation and Recycling - Site Manager
Dan Deatsch, Trinity Consultants
Paul Ebert, Des Moines Wastewater Reclamation Authority
Jason Evans, Cedar Rapids/Linn Co. Solid Waste Agency
Sarah Fersdahl, DuPont BioSciences
Darin Haake, Shelby County Board of Supervisors
Joe Harms, Perishable Distributors of Iowa
Brad Hartkopf, Association of Business and Industry
Lea Hensel, Foth Infrastructure & Environment
Amanda Jennings, Environmental Engineer, John Deere - Ankeny
Marty Jones, Iowa City Veterans Administration
Jen Jordan, City of Iowa City
Rich Leopold, Polk County CCB
Doug Luzbetak, HLW Engineering Group
Beth MacKenzie, University of Iowa
Judi Mendenhall, Metro Waste Authority
Mike Miller, SCS Engineers
Ciji Mitrisin, Recycle Me Iowa
Hal Morton, Des Moines County Solid Waste Agency
Linda Muken, Story County Supervisor
Dan Nickey, Iowa Waste Reduction Center
Craig Nowell, Roquette Americas Inc.
Clayton Ohrt, Buchanan Co. Board of Supervisors
Ayo Oluwalana, Iowa State University
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Julie Plummer, Iowa Waste Exchange
Alicia Presto, Iowa Waste Exchange
Merry Rankin, Iowa State University
John Roosa, Boone County Landfill
Jeff Ross, Cambrex
Bill Schmitt, City of Ames Resource Recovery Center
Alan Schumacher, Quincy Recycling
Don Shonka, Buchanan Co. Board of Supervisors
Alicia Simmons, Frontier Co-Op
Lee Sorenson, Dickinson County CCB
Kevin Techau, Keep Iowa Beautiful
Bev Wagner, Dubuque Metropolitan Area SWA/Loras College
Jane Wilch, City of Iowa City
Troy Willard, The Can Shed
Jennifer Wittenburg, Iowa Waste Reduction Center
Mike Zeigler, City of Ames, Electric Services Operations
Catherine Zeman, University of Northern Iowa - Recycling and Reuse Technology Transfer Center
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9.0 ABOUT BURNS & MCDONNELL

Burns & McDonnell is a full-service engineering, architecture, construction, environmental and consulting solutions firm, based in Kansas City, Missouri. Our staff of 7,000 includes engineers, architects, construction professionals, planners, estimators, economists, technicians and scientists. Our Solid Waste and Resource Recovery group assists public and private clients throughout North America with one mission in mind: Make our clients successful.

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10.0 ABOUT FUTURE IQ

Future iQ specializes in applying innovative tools and approaches to assist municipalities, organizations, regions and industries shape their economic and community futures. With nearly two decades of experience, the company has a global clientele spanning three continents. To learn more about Future iQ, and our recent projects visit www.future-iq.com or by email at info@future-iq.com

WORKSHOP, FOCUS GROUPS AND REPORTS PREPARED BY:

David Beurle
CEO, Future iQ

Heather Branigin
VP, Foresight Research

To access the Think-Tank and Strategic Vision reports, please visit:
https://iowadnr.gov/SMM
**Life Cycle Assessment**

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) aims to quantify the environmental impacts that arise from material inputs and outputs, such as energy use or air emissions, over a product’s entire life cycle to assist consumers in making decisions that will benefit the environment. LCA is typically a "cradle-to-grave" approach, which begins with the gathering of raw materials from the earth to create the product and ends at the point when all materials are returned to the earth.

The goal of LCA is to:
- Quantify or otherwise characterize all the inputs and outputs over a product’s life cycle
- Specify the potential environmental impacts of these material flows
- Consider alternative approaches that change those impacts for the better

**Benefits of LCA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provide comprehensive view of the environmental impacts</th>
<th>See more than just the “use” phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quantify environmental effects such as overall energy consumption or air emissions</td>
<td>Recognize inefficiencies or significant changes across life cycle phases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow comparison of alternatives &quot;apples to apples&quot;</td>
<td>Reduce overall environmental impact and costs (as in an economic input-output LCA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Challenges with LCA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defining LCA boundaries and scope</th>
<th>Where do I want to draw the line? What attributes am I interested in comparing against one another? How far down the chain do I want to identify and quantify these material flows, and is that data even available?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data availability</td>
<td>Is data available to quantify material inputs and outputs at all stages of my defined scope? Is this data from a reliable source (e.g., manufacturer)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantifying environmental impacts</td>
<td>How can these material flows be quantified into environmental categories (e.g., global warming)?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighting impacts across stakeholders</td>
<td>What environmental category are we most concerned about (e.g., global warming, energy use, acidification) and how does it compare to other environmental attributes?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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ATTACHMENT D

MATERIAL CATEGORY PRIORITIZATION DISCUSSION BOARDS AND RESULTS
Breakout Room #1 - Material Category Priority Results

**Category Criteria:**
- Phase I Recommendation
- Environmental Benefits
- % of Disposed Waste Stream
- Feasibility for Implementation

**High Priority**
- Organics
- Fibers
- Plastics
- C&D
- Durable Goods

**Low Priority**
- Renewable Energy Equipment - Middle
- Universal Waste & HHM - Middle
- Glass
- Metals
Breakout Room #2 - Material Category Priority Results

**Category Criteria:**
- Phase I Recommendation
- Environmental Benefits
- % of Disposed Waste Stream
- Feasibility for Implementation

**High Priority**
- Renewable Energy Equipment
- Universal Waste & HHM
- Plastics
- C&D
- Organics

**Low Priority**
- Glass
- Fibers
- Durable Goods
- Metals
Combined Breakout Room and Discussion - Material Category Priority Results

High Priority:
- Paper w/ organics
- Organics
- Plastics
- C&D
- Renewable
- Renewable Energy Equipment

Medium Priority Categories:
- Universal
- Universal Waste & HHM
- Fibers
- Durable Goods

Low Priority:
- Glass
- Metals
- Universal Waste & HHM
- Durable Goods
ATTACHMENT E

STAKEHOLDER MEETING #1 PRESENTATION SLIDES
Work Session #1
March 25, 2021

WELCOME!

Step 1  Please answer all 3 Zoom Questions

Step 2  Please rename your Zoom tile screen with your name and affiliation, such as company or organization. Right click on your video screen and select “rename”
Introductions
Introduction Survey Results
Expectations

- Ask a lot of questions
- Be open to new ideas and concepts
- Consider serving on a subcommittee
- Share information and solicit input from your co-workers, friends, and family
- Please keep participating
Agenda

I. Introductions
II. SMM Background
Break (5 Min)
III. Introduction to Phase II
Break (10 minutes)
IV. Materials Prioritization (break out groups)
Break (5 minutes)
V. Next Steps and Q&A
What is SMM?

“Sustainable materials management is an approach to using and reusing materials most productively throughout their entire life cycles”

It represents a change in how our society thinks about the use of natural resources and environmental protection.

Source: USEPA
SMM Objectives

Use materials in the most productive way with an emphasis on using less

Reduce toxic chemicals and environmental impacts throughout the material life cycle

Assure we have sufficient resources to meet today’s needs and those of the future
Global raw material use rose during the 20th century at about twice the rate of population growth.

For every 1 percent increase in gross domestic product, raw material use has risen by 0.4 percent.
SMM Value
Establishes a Framework to:

- Identify opportunities to reduce environmental impacts, conserve resources, and reduce costs
- Educate consumers on impacts and how their decisions can affect change
- Enhance systems to transform waste into a resource
- Work with producers to utilize resources more sustainably
Phase I Review
Visioning Process

1. Statewide planning process to create a vision to guide solid waste management using SMM as its foundation
2. Gathered input from a broad set of stakeholders through a dynamic planning process
3. Used a scenario planning methodology to explore future directions and implications
Visioning Process Timeline

Initial Strategy Meeting and Calls
Planning Meetings and Calls
Iowa DNR Vision for Iowa Think-Tank
Iowa DNR Vision for Iowa Focus Groups
Final Report and Planning Calls

November-December 2018
January-February 2019
March-May 2019
June-August 2019
September-October 2019

Iowa DNR Benchmark Study
Think Tank Surveys
Vision for Iowa Think-Tank Report
IDNR Sustainable Materials Management Vision for Iowa Report
Benchmarking

- Planning process used by respective states to transition to SMM
- Key SMM principles and objectives
- Statewide SMM policies and programs identified for implementation
- Program funding
- Other relevant details
# Benchmarking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td><strong>State led with County and stakeholder input</strong></td>
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<td><strong>75% recycling goal and material capture rate goals</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Product stewardship laws for carpet, mercury lamps, batteries, paint, and mattresses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Communities required to provide curbside recycling now required to offer curbside organics collection</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Funded through Solid Waste Management Tax</strong></td>
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Vermont

Driven by legislatively mandated goals
Stakeholder participation in public comment period and working groups
Food waste disposal ban
Composting and anaerobic digestion facilities
Online Universal Recycling Map and edible food recovery tools
Product stewardship laws
Grant programs
Funded through landfill surcharge fee of $6.00/ton
Maine

50% diversion goal

Edible food waste recovery and food rescue

Product stewardship laws for e-waste, batteries, cell phones, light bulbs, and thermostats

Focus on packaging

Online tool kits (i.e. PAYT)

Funded through: State Environmental Fees (tires, cars, batteries); licensing and annual reporting fees, and landfill surcharge fee of $2.00 per ton
### Oregon

- Workgroup developed 2050 vision, framework, and action steps
- Used life cycle analysis to create goals and to measure outcomes
- Specific goals for stages of material life cycle
- Prioritized food reclamation
- Online resources to engage local leaders and citizens
- Product stewardship for carpet, paint, electronics, and packaging materials
- Grant awards
- Funded through landfill surcharges not to exceed $1.18/ton
Tennessee

- Conducted three stakeholder engagement sessions
- Identified needs and challenges to transition from ISWM to a SMM system
- Focused effort to encourage organics recycling
- Grants for organic collection, composting, and anaerobic digestion; rural recycling
- Whole tires and used oil disposal ban
- Funded through landfill and product surcharges
Benchmarking Conclusions

Many statewide SMM programs linked to waste reduction and diversion goals

State funding mechanisms not likely sustainable in the long-term

States transitioning to SMM system prioritize increased organics diversion and fostering materials stewardship
Iowa Groundwater Protection Act

1987 groundbreaking legislation

Goal: Prevent contamination of groundwater from point and non-point sources

Authorized DNR to adopt groundwater rules, establish monitoring network, and education

Established funds with specific use goals:

- Solid Waste Account
- Agriculture Management Account
- Household Hazardous Waste Account
- Storage Tank Management Account
Waste Disposal Diversion Goals & Incentives

Progress has been measured and valued using disposed tonnages since establishment of the Iowa Groundwater Protection Act.

- <25%: $3.30/ton
- 25% - 36%: $2.20/ton
- 36% - 50%: $2.10/ton
- >50%: $1.95/ton
State Tonnage Fees Support

- Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP) – Grants and loans to support waste diversion efforts
- Derelict Buildings Program – Grants to address derelict buildings and divert materials from disposal
- Iowa Waste Reduction Center (IWRC) – Environmental consulting, assistance, training, and education services
- Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE) – Assist waste generators to divert materials from disposal for reuse
State Tonnage Fees Support

- **Regional Collection Centers (RCC)** – Grants to establish RCCs, support/expand services, and provide reimbursement support for disposal costs
- **Environmental Management System (EMS)** – Supports Solid Waste Agencies to identify and reduce environmental risks
- **Pollution Prevention (P2) Services** – Assess operations for efficiencies, pollution prevention, & waste reduction for Iowa businesses, industry, institutions, or government agencies
- **DNR Solid Waste Operations**
Additional Programs

- Iowa Bottle Bill
- Mercury thermostats and vehicle switches program
- Rechargeable batteries program
- Waste Flow Control
- Collaborations with cities, institutions, and commercial industries
- Community Climate Action Plans
- Public/Private Sustainability Goals
Visioning Results - SMM Importance
Visioning Results - Feasibility

Answer
1. Not at all likely
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10. Definitely will happen
Iowa Transitioning from ISWM to SMM
BREAK (5 Minutes)
Phase II
Purpose and Goal

Building on the Phase I results, transition from solid waste management to Sustainable Materials Management

Establish a clear direction for implementing an SMM system with short, medium and long-term strategies
Process

Prioritize material categories

Select specific material types within each category

Apply LCA to material types

Define and recommend specific strategies
- Policies
- Programs
- Infrastructure
- Funding mechanisms

Establish implementation timeline, responsible parties, and performance metrics
Stakeholder Group Role

- Obtain perspectives on SMM adoption and implementation
- Consult and advise DNR on establishing SMM
- Provide guidance to subcommittees
- No formal voting; may be polling and/or surveying
Subcommittees Role

- Will finalize material types, evaluate LCA’s, identify strategies
- Will consist of nine to 12 individuals
  - Combination of invitation and application
- Will elect a representative for their group
- Will make decisions using modified consensus
Research

• Iowa products and producers
• Existing LCA’s
• Strategies, metrics, reporting
Life Cycle Assessment
What is Life Cycle Analysis?

- Used to assess the potential environmental impacts of product systems and services.
- Accounts for the emissions and resources used throughout a product’s life cycle.
- Used to assist in making decisions that will benefit the environment.
- Typically "cradle-to-grave" approach.
LCA Framework

- Definition of study goal and scope study
- Life cycle inventory analysis
- Life cycle impact assessment
- Interpretation of outcomes
- Improvements/alternatives
LCA Example

Glass Bottles

Aluminum Cans

Plastic Bottles
Potential Priority Material Categories

- Plastics
- Metals
- Fibers
- Organics
- Glass
- Construction and Demolition Debris
- Household Hazardous Materials/Universal Wastes
- Durable Goods
- Renewable Energy Equipment
Category/Material Types

**Plastics**
- Rigid containers
- Rigid bottles
- Straws
- Bags
- Packaging
- Film
- Styrofoam
- Vinyl

**Organics**
- Yard trimmings
- Agricultural waste
- Pre-consumer food scraps
- Edible food
- Post-consumer food scraps
- Biosolids
- Manure
- Textiles
Category/Material Types

Durable Goods
- Appliances
- Carpet
- Mattresses
- Tires
- Vehicles
- Tools
- Luggage
- Lawn/Gardening Equipment

HHM/Universal Waste
- Paint
- Solvents
- Cleaning Supplies
- Lawn/Garden Supplies
- Electronics
- Light Bulbs
- Motor Oil/Filters
- Medicine
- Batteries
Category/Material Types

**Fibers**
- Office Paper
- Newspaper
- Magazines
- Corrugated Cardboard
- Packaging
- Fiberboard
- Junk mail

**Metals**
- Aluminum beverage containers
- Other aluminums (i.e. foil)
- Tin cans
- Ferrous metal
- Other metals
Category/Material Types

Glass
- Bottles
- Ceramics
- Windows
- Porcelain
- Mixed Cullet
- Pyrex

C&D
- Treated Wood
- Untreated Wood
- Roof Shingles
- Asphalt Paving
- Bricks, Rocks, Concrete
- Drywall, Plaster, Gypsum Board
Category/Material Types

Renewable Energy Equipment/Waste

- Windmill Blades
- Solar Panels
- Wire
- Batteries
- Ash
Criteria for Category Selection

Build on What's Already Working

Phase I Recommended

Percent of Disposed Waste Stream

Environmental Benefits

Implementation Feasibility
Phase I Recommended

- Single-Use Plastics
- Organics
- Paper and Plastic Packaging
Build on What’s Already Working

- Bottle Redemption Program (Certain Plastics, Metals and Glass)
- HHM Collection Sites
- Yard Waste Ban
- SWAP
- Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE)
Percent of Disposed Waste Stream

- Paper: 25.5%
- Organics: 31.6%
- Plastic: 18.3%
- Other: 11.4%
- Construction & Demolition: 5.4%
- Metal: 3.9%
- Glass: 2.1%
- HHM: 0.5%
- Durables: 1.4%
Environmental Benefits

Potential To:

• Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions
• Prevent Littering/Open Dumping
• Decrease Energy and Water Use
• Create Renewable Energy
BREAK (10 Minutes)
Break-Out Groups
Prioritization Mapping
BREAKOUT GROUPS RESULTS
Subcommittee/Stakeholder Meetings

Subcommittee Meeting #1
Evaluate category, narrow to material types

Subcommittee Meeting #2
Review LCA results

Subcommittee Meeting #3
Materials through SMM hierarchy – what can Iowa do?
Metrics for success

Stakeholder Meeting #2
Present results of Subcommittee meetings 1-3
Subcommittees

Iowa SMM Phase II - Sub Committee Member Preference

1. First and Last Name
   
2. E-mail address
   
3. Organization Name
   
4. I would like to be considered for participating as a member of a Sub Committee
   - Yes
   - No

5. Please prioritize for which Sub Committee you would like to be considered for participation.
   You can click and drag or use the pull down menu to rank.
   Scale is 1-4, 1 being highest.
   - Organic Materials Sub Committee
   - Paper Materials Sub Committee
   - Plastic Materials Sub Committee
   - Glass Materials Sub Committee
ATTACHMENT F

RECODED FILES OF MEETING AND BREAKOUT ROOMS