

Solid Waste Management



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the state's solid waste program which includes regulation of solid waste handling and disposal facilities (see sidebar), special waste disposal authorizations, beneficial reuse and product stewardship. Proper management of solid waste protects Iowa's land, water and air resources.

Administration of the program is funded primarily through a tonnage fee. Solid Waste Section staff of the Land Quality Bureau acquires the same training and certification that is required of facility operators. They speak at local and national conferences in their respective program areas and spend much of their time providing compliance and technical assistance to permit holders, other governing bodies and the public.

FINAL DISPOSAL (LANDFILLS):

The Solid Waste Section engineers work with operating and closed sanitary landfills. Protection of groundwater is enhanced by the oversight of siting, design, operating, monitoring, corrective action, reporting, record-keeping, closure and post-closure requirements at landfills. If waste requires special handling, a special waste authorization may be obtained from the DNR's Solid Waste Section to ensure the material is disposed of properly.

FACILITATE FINAL DISPOSAL (NON-LANDFILL):

Facilities that are not a final disposal facility, but have involvement in the transfer, processing or reuse of a discarded material must comply with the DNR rules. These rules ensure

proper handling and storage of materials before reaching their final destination for disposal and/or recycling.

INSPECTIONS:

The Field Services and Compliance Bureau includes six field offices throughout the state. They serve as the local representatives of the Solid Waste Section, and their primary task is helping industry and the public understand solid waste and other environmental services programs.

They conduct routine inspections of all facilities permitted by the Solid Waste Section. Staff in the field help individuals and businesses understand when to apply for a permit and how to meet permit requirements. Field staff also handle complaints from the public, often resolving disputes between neighbors. If technical assistance and cooperative activities do not resolve a problem, the field office staff may recommend more formal measures to seek compliance. In any compliance actions, field office, central office and legal staff form a team to coordinate each case until it is finally resolved.

SOLID WASTE DATABASE:

The solid waste database tracks permit amendments, renewals and report submittals for solid waste facilities. The database also maintains basic facility information such as permit numbers, facility contacts, project locations and permit expiration dates.

All incoming and outgoing documents are converted to an electronic format available for public viewing via the internet.

Solid Waste Handling and Disposal Facilities Include:

- Landfills
- Transfer stations
- Appliance and electronics demanufacturers
- Composting
- Household hazardous waste/ Regional Collection Centers
- Incinerators
- Land application
- Petroleum contaminated soil landfarms
- Waste processing and material recovery
- Tire processing and hauling

Tonnage Fee:

A fee that is assessed to each ton of waste disposed of at an Iowa landfill.

Solid Waste Stats:

Full-time Staff	16.25
Rule Chapters overseen	22
Permitted Solid Waste Facilities in Iowa	400+

Solid Waste Section Staff Review:

- Permit applications and renewals
- Facility amendments
- Water quality reports
- Financial assurance documentation
- Waste tonnage reports
- Other required facility submittals

DNR's Solid Waste Section web page: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryLand/SolidWaste.aspx>

Solid Waste Section permitting database: <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/solidwaste/>

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