

Thank you for
joining!

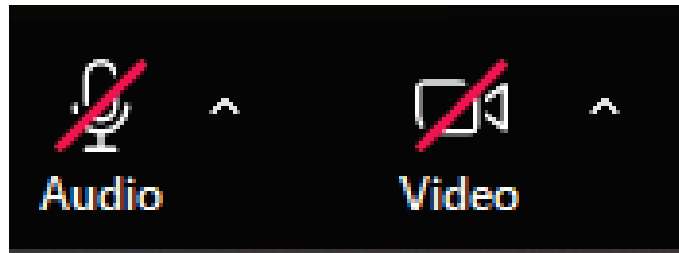
We will get
started in a few
minutes.

Organic Waste Management – Stakeholder Event
July 30, 2026

Reminder

Instructions

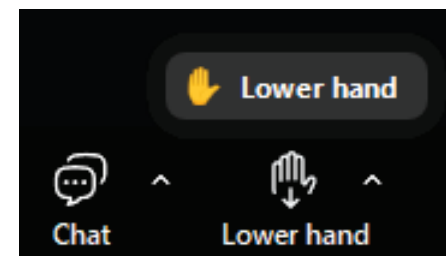
- Mute/Un-Mute and Camera Options.



Reminder Continued

Instructions

- If you have questions, please use the raise hand feature or type the question in the chat



Introductions

DNR Staff

Jennifer Wright

FABA Supervisor

Tom Anderson

Executive Officer II

Theresa Stiner

Environmental Specialist
Senior

SCS Staff

Jeff Phillips

Senior Project Manager

Lisa McDaniel

Project Manager

Hannah Sperflage

Senior Project Professional

Agenda

1

Welcome and Project Background

10:00 – 10:15

2

Review and Discuss Recommendations

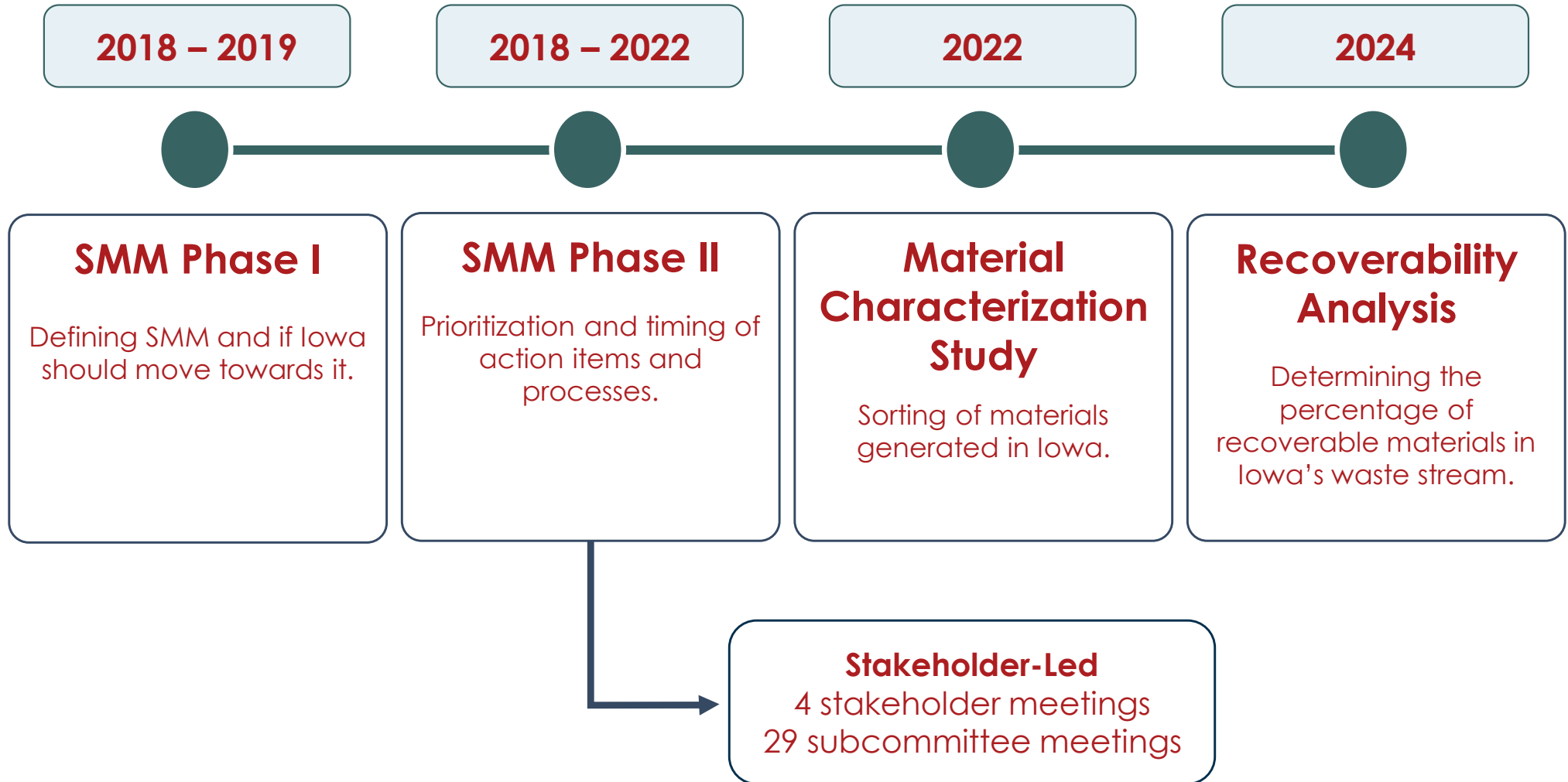
10:15 – 11:30

3

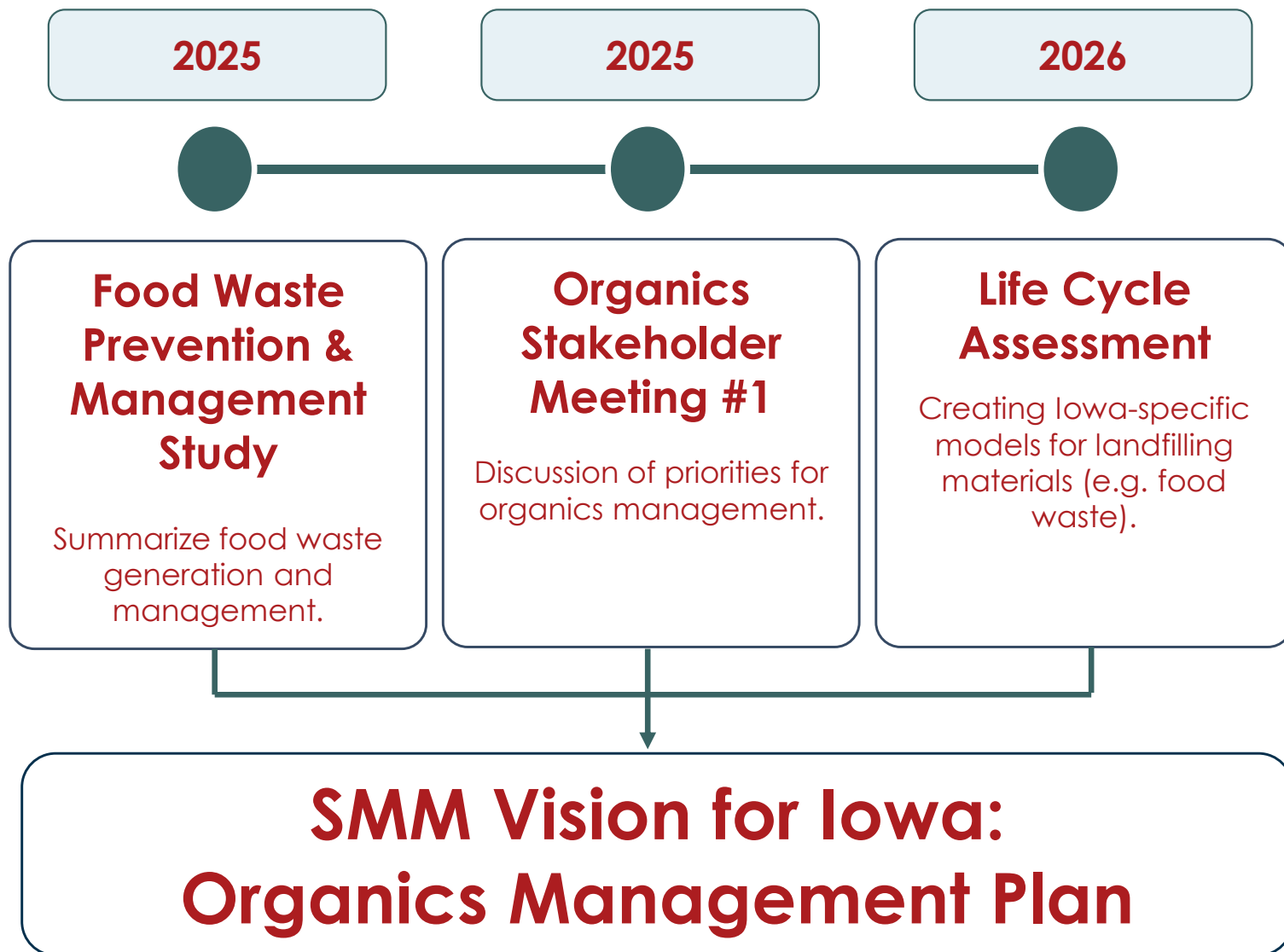
Closing Statements and Next Steps

11:30 – 12:00

SMM Timeline



SMM Timeline Continued



Organics Management Plan Purpose

Evaluate current conditions and to **develop** practical strategies to **improve** the management of **organic materials** across the state including the following targeted organic materials.



Wasted Food



Yard Waste



Wood Waste



Biosolids



Agricultural Waste

Organic Management Groups



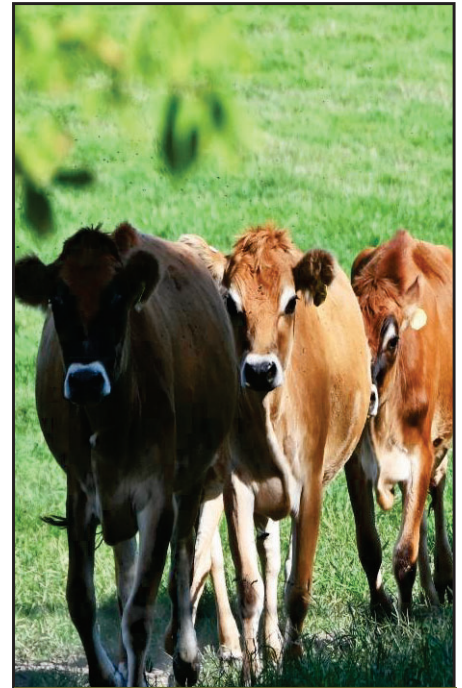
Prevention and
Rescue



Composting



Anaerobic
Digestion



Agriculture
Practices
and Other

Organic Stakeholder Meeting # 1



**Prevention and
Rescue**

26 Strategies



Composting

18 Strategies



**Anaerobic
Digestion**

17 Strategies



**Agriculture
Practices
and Other**

12 Strategies

Stakeholder Priorities

Objectives:

- Present the prioritized strategies by management group
- Identify key partners that should be involved in implementation of the strategy

Stakeholder Priorities

Food Waste Prevention and Rescue

1

Institute food waste prevention education campaigns targeting consumers, schools, stores, and restaurants.

2

Increase storage donation handling and capacity.

3

Increase, develop, and share educational materials related to the EPA Wasted Food Scale, food labeling (including “use by” and “best by”, and strategies for reducing food waste for homes and businesses.

4

Add food waste to the Special Waste Authorization process where other upcycling outlets for the material must be exhausted before requesting disposal if food waste quantity is above a certain threshold.

5

Coordinate with grocery stores on food waste reduction efforts and messaging, especially around use of “imperfect produce” or close-dated items.



Food Waste Prevention and Rescue

Strategy 1: Institute food waste prevention education campaigns targeting consumers, schools, stores, and restaurants.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
Iowa State University Extension
Iowa Department of Education
Schools
Local governments
Nonprofits
Food rescue organizations
Industry associations

Timeline: Short – Medium

Type: Education

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Iowa Waste Exchange
Iowa Food Bank Association
Restaurant and Service Industry
Associations
Iowa Waste Reduction Center

Food Waste Prevention and Rescue

Strategy 2: Increase storage donation handling and capacity.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
Food banks
Food rescue organizations
Pantries
Local governments
Philanthropy
Private donors
USDA partners

Timeline: Short – Medium

Type: Infrastructure

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Grocers Association
Schools
Department of Education

Food Waste Prevention and Rescue

Strategy 3: Develop and share educational materials related to the EPA Wasted Food Scale, food labeling, and strategies for reducing food waste for homes and businesses.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
USDA
EPA
ISU Extension
Retailers
Schools
Local governments
Trade associations

Timeline: Short – Medium

Type: Education

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Grocers and Restaurant Associations

Food Waste Prevention and Rescue

Strategy 4: Add food waste to the Special Waste Authorization process where other upcycling outlets for the material must be exhausted before requesting disposal if food waste quantity is above a certain threshold.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
Landfill operators
Large food waste generators
Food rescue organizations
Composting operators
AD operators
Industry associations
Legal and policy staff

Timeline: Medium – Long

Type: Policy

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Food Pantries
Retail Stores

Food Waste Prevention and Rescue

Strategy 5: Coordinate with grocery stores on food waste reduction efforts and messaging, especially around use of “imperfect produce” or close-dated items.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
Grocery associations
Individual retailers
Food rescue organizations
Chambers of commerce
Local governments

Timeline: Short – Medium

Type: Program, Education

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Iowa Waste Reduction Center
Event Locations and Planners
Produce Distributors

Stakeholder Priorities

Composting

1

Provide grants or incentives to facilities that accept and process food waste to offset equipment and operational costs.

2

Educate industry and consumers on the other options such as composting an anaerobic digestion rather than relying on landfill disposal.

3

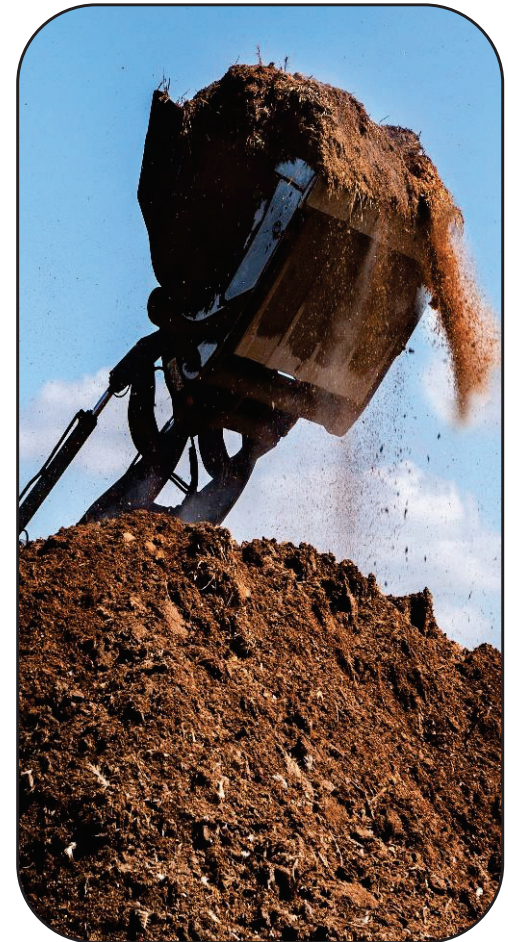
Encourage municipalities to accept food waste in organics management programs.

4

Encourage on-site food waste management by providing information about best practices for at-home composting and on-site food waste management tools.

5

Develop regulations that define compostable, biodegradable, and establish compost standards.



Composting

Strategy 1: Provide grants or incentives to facilities that accept and process food waste to offset equipment and operational costs.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
IACC
Compost facility operators
Local governments
Private sector operators
Agricultural partners
Funding agencies

Timeline: Medium – Long

Type: Infrastructure

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Trade Associations
Universities (ISU, UNI, U of I)

Composting

Strategy 2: Educate industry and consumers on other options such as composting and anaerobic digestion rather than relying on landfill disposal.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
ISU Extension
Composters
AD operators
Local governments
Business associations
Schools

Timeline: Short – Medium

Type: Education

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

IACC
Landfills

Composting

Strategy 3: Encourage municipalities to accept food waste in organics management programs.

Key Partners:

Local governments
Iowa DNR
Haulers
Composting operators
AD operators
Regional planning organizations

Timeline: Medium – Long

Type: Program, Infrastructure

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

IACC
Council of Governments
Iowa League of Cities

Composting

Strategy 4: Encourage on-site food waste management by providing information about best practices for at home composting and on-site food waste management tools.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
ISU Extension
Master Gardener programs
Local governments
Community organizations

Timeline: Short – Medium

Type: Education, Program

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Landfills
Iowa Waste Reduction Center
Local Community Gardens
Schools
Food Cooperatives
Practical Farmers of Iowa

Composting

Strategy 5: Develop regulations that define compostable, biodegradable, and establish compost standards.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
IACC
Compost facility operators
Local governments
Product manufacturers
Retailers
Standards organizations
Legal and policy staff

Timeline: Medium – Long

Type: Policy

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

AD Facilities
Trade Organizations
IDALS

Stakeholder Priorities

Anaerobic Digestion

1

Educate industry and consumers on the other options such as compost and anaerobic digestion rather than relying on landfill disposal.

2

Estimate what it would cost to divert organics from landfills to Iowa composting facilities and digesters.

3

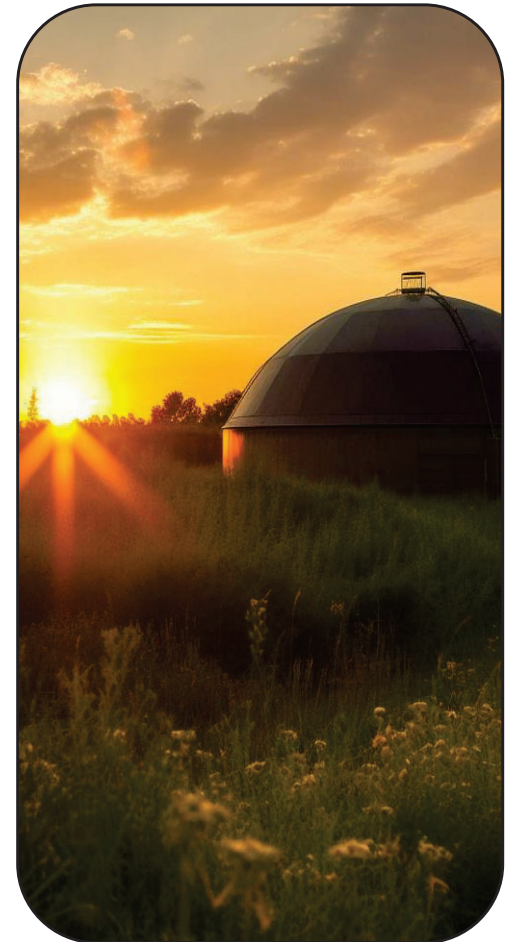
Provide grants or incentives to facilities that pre-process (depackage, grind, etc.) food waste or accept and process food waste to offset equipment and operational costs.

4

Research what other states require for government organic-content procurement and how they may subsidize tipping fees for food waste at compost facilities or water resource recovery facilities.

5

Incentivize public-private partnerships.



Anaerobic Digestion

Strategy 1: Educate industry and consumers on the other options such as compost and anaerobic digestion rather than relying on landfill disposal.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
WWTP operators
AD operators
Food manufacturers
ISU Extension
Local governments

Timeline: Short – Medium

Type: Education

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Landfills

Anaerobic Digestion

Strategy 2: Estimate what it would cost to divert organics from landfills to Iowa composting facilities and digesters.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
Consultants
Local governments
Composting and AD operators
Wastewater utilities
Regional planning organizations

Timeline: Short – Medium

Type: Planning, Data

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Trade Organization
AD Developers

Anaerobic Digestion

Strategy 3: Provide grants or incentives to facilities that pre-process (depackage, grind, etc.) food waste or accept and process food waste to offset equipment and operations costs.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
Private sector operators
WWTPs
AD operators
Local governments
Landfill or transfer station operators
Funding partners

Timeline: Medium – Long

Type: Infrastructure

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Trade Organizations
AD Developers

Anaerobic Digestion

Strategy 4: Research what other states require for government organic-content procurement and how they may subsidize tipping fees for food waste at compost facilities or water resource recovery facilities.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
Policy organizations
Academic institutions
Procurement staff
Local governments
Compost and AD operators
WRRFs

Timeline: Medium – Long

Type: Policy

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

No Additions

Anaerobic Digestion

Strategy 5: Incentivize public-private partnership costs.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
Local governments
Private composters
AD developers
Haulers
WWTPs
Landfill operators
Regional planning entities

Timeline: Medium – Long

Type: Program, Infrastructure

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

USDA

Stakeholder Priorities

Agricultural Practices and Other

1

Strengthen partnerships with Iowa State University Extension, USDA, and food gleaning networks to promote food recovery and distribution.

2

Meet with entities such as Iowa State University and EPA to find gaps and reassess how to expand programs already in play in Iowa.

3

Encourage municipalities to accept food waste in organics management programs.

4

Continue to monitor states' efforts to divert organics and food waste from the landfill for the future.

5

Continue to conduct statewide materials characterization studies to track progress toward food waste reduction goals.

6

Begin creating multi-county organic waste sheds.



Agricultural Practices and Other

Strategy 1: Strengthen partnerships with Iowa State University Extension, USDA, and food gleaning networks to promote food recovery and distribution.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
ISU Extension
USDA
Gleaning networks
Food rescue organizations
Agricultural groups
Local nonprofits

Timeline: Short – Medium

Type: Program

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

No Additions

Agricultural Practices and Other

Strategy 2: Meet with entities such as Iowa State University and EPA to find gaps and reassess how to expand programs already in play in Iowa.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
ISU Extension
EPA
USDA
Local governments
Nonprofits
Agricultural and industry stakeholders

Timeline: Short – Medium

Type: Planning, Data

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Landfills
AD Operators

Agricultural Practices and Other

Strategy 3: Encourage municipalities to accept food waste in organics management programs.

Key Partners:

Local governments
Iowa DNR
Regional planning entities,
Composting and AD operators
Agricultural partners
Haulers

Timeline: Medium – Long

Type: Program, Infrastructure

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

No Additions

Agricultural Practices and Other

Strategy 4: Continue to monitor states' efforts to divert organics and food waste from the landfill for the future.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
National organizations
Academic institutions
Peer agencies
Policy partners

Timeline: Ongoing

Type: Planning, Data

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

Landfills
Iowa Food Banks
Zero Food Waste Coalition

Agricultural Practices and Other

Strategy 5: Continue to conduct statewide materials characterization studies to track progress toward food waste reduction goals.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
Consultants
Local governments
Facilities
Regional agencies
Academic partners

Timeline: Ongoing

Type: Planning, Data

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

No Additions

Agricultural Practices and Other

Strategy 6: Begin creating multi-county organic waste sheds.

Key Partners:

Iowa DNR
Local governments
Regional planning entities
Haulers
Composters
AD operators
Agricultural partners
Landfill and transfer station operators

Timeline: Medium – Long

Type: Planning, Infrastructure

Additions to Key Partners (7/30):

ISU
AD Developers
Crop and Livestock Producer Orgs
Trade Organizations

Next Steps

Thank you!