

Thank you for  
joining!

We will get  
started in a few  
minutes.

**Organic Waste Management – Stakeholder Event**  
**July 30, 2026**

# Reminder

## Instructions

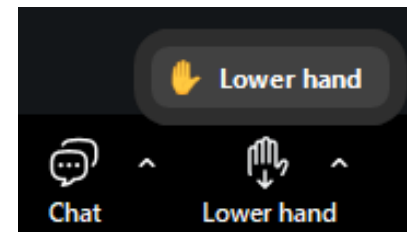
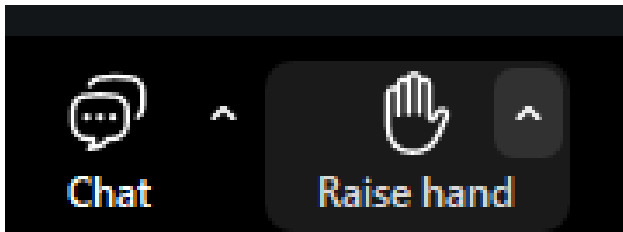
- Mute/Un-Mute and Camera Options.



# Reminder

## 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

**Thresa Stiner**

Environmental Specialist  
Senior

## SCS Staff

**Jeff Phillips**

Senior Project Manager

**Lisa McDaniel**

Project Manager

**Hannah Sperfslage**

Senior Project Professional

# Agenda

**1**

**Welcome and Project Background**

**10:00 – 10:15**

**2**

**Review and Discuss Recommendations**

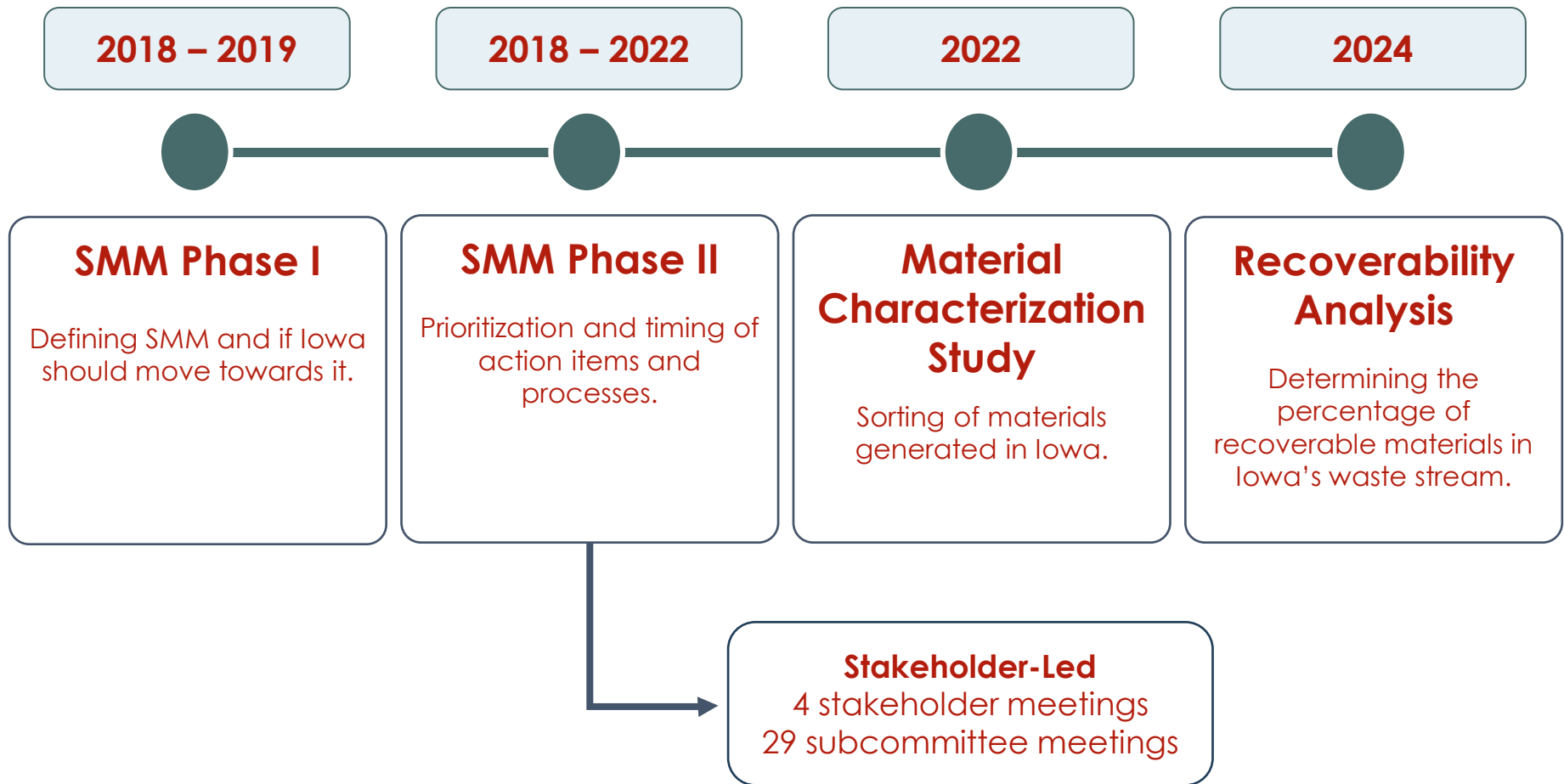
**10:15 – 11:30**

**3**

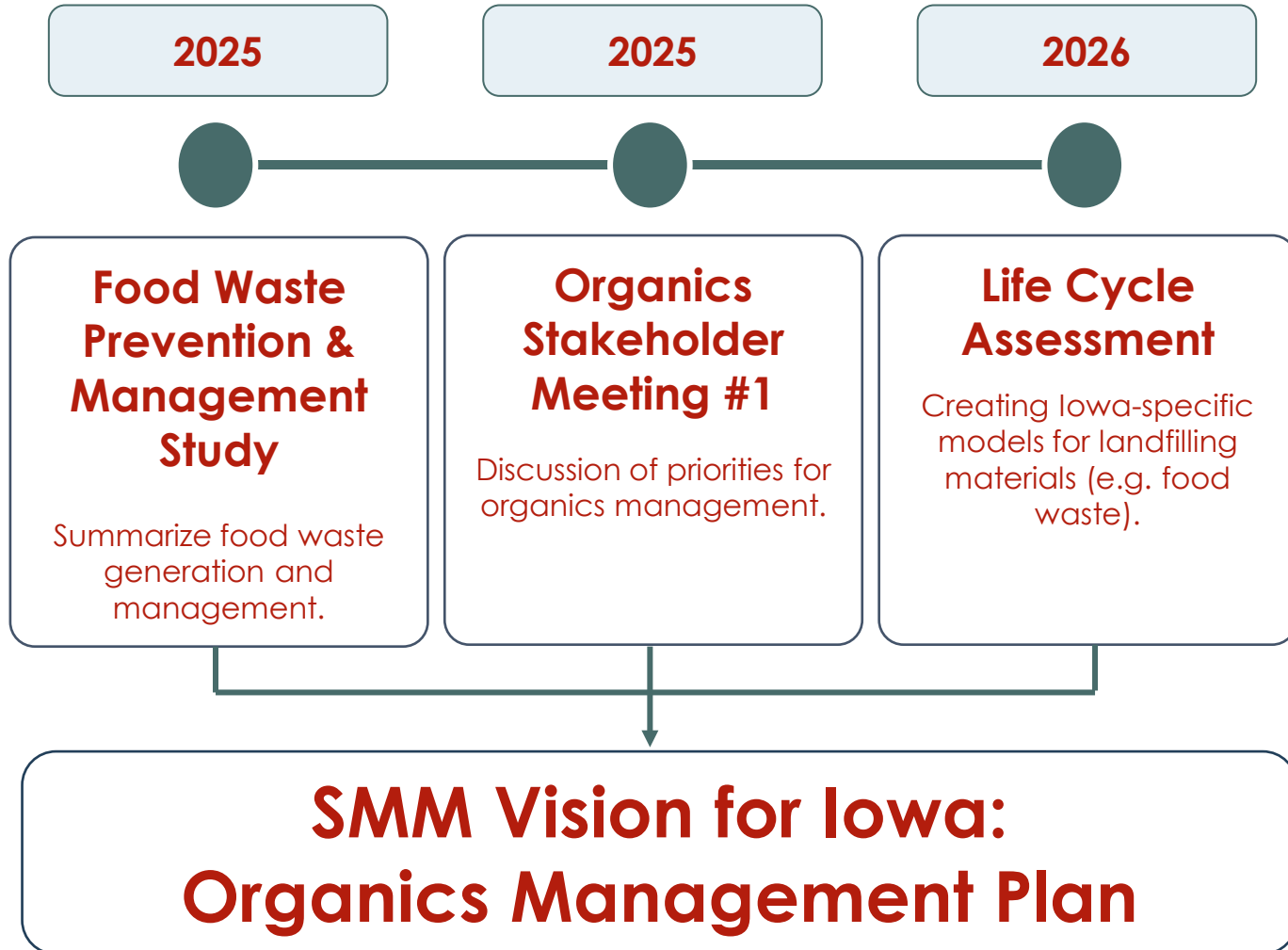
**Closing Statements and Next Steps**

**11:30 – 12:00**

# SMM Timeline



# SMM Timeline



# 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



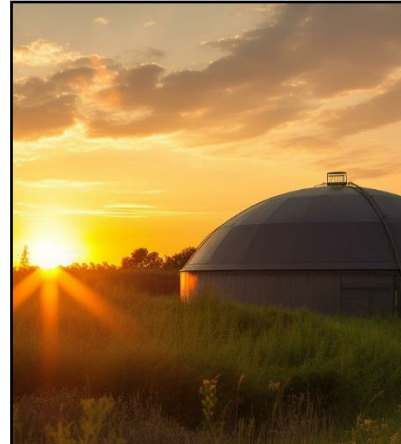
## Prevention and Rescue

**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

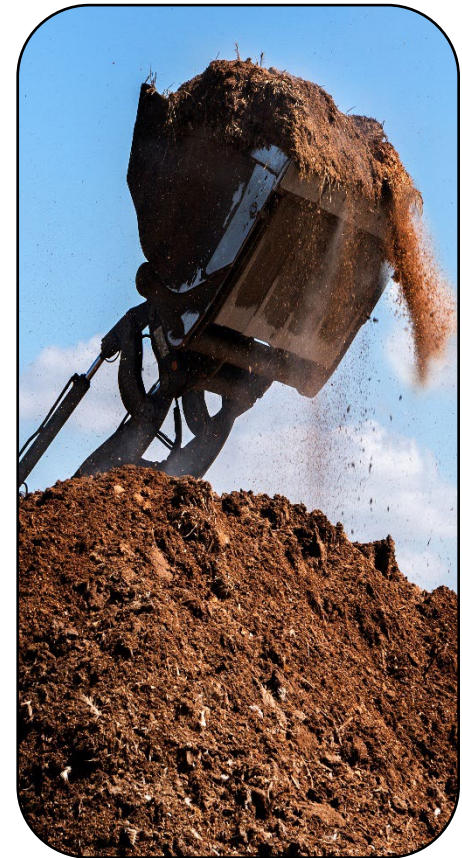
Encourage municipalities to accept food waste in organics management programs.

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

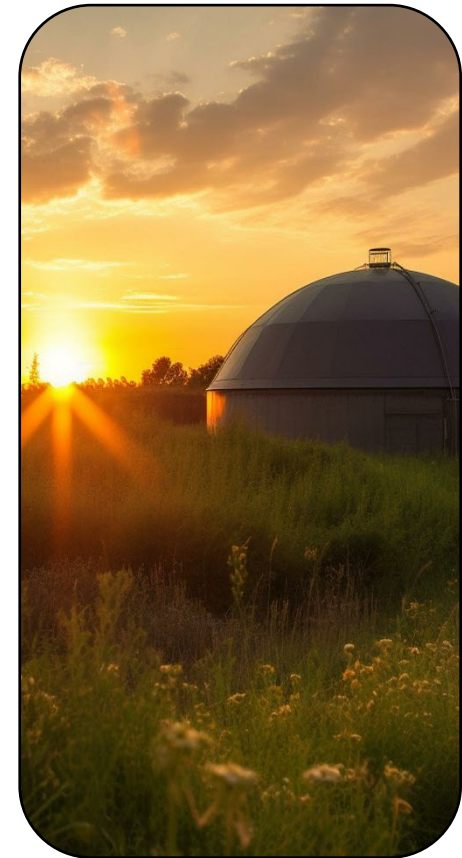
Provide grants or incentives to facilities that pre-process (depackage, grind, etc.) food waste or accept and process food waste to offset equipment and operational costs.

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!