

# Financial and Business Assistance

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



The Financial and Business Assistance (FABA) team at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is committed to enhancing Iowa's Environment in ways that positively impact our economy and society.

## **Comprehensive Planning & Environmental Management Systems (EMS)**

Each community in Iowa is part of a Solid Waste Planning Area. Every five years each Planning Area solicits input and files a Comprehensive Plan Update (IAC 567-101) with the department for review. The plan describes the state of the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) along with disposal information, programs and goals. DNR staff is available to help local officials with tools to assist in preparation to make important waste reduction and integrated solid waste management decisions.

**EMS** is a voluntary alternative program to Comprehensive Planning. Solid Waste Planning Areas and Facility Service Areas who are successful program applicants receive training and technical assistance to implement the ten elements of EMS, keying on six environmental areas beyond waste reduction. Participants receive benefits specific to the program and submit annual reports detailing objectives and progress. Applications are accepted annually for new program participants.

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## **Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE)**

With a non-regulatory network of representatives around the state, the IWE works to match up businesses, schools, hospitals, communities, and individuals that have waste recycling and/or disposal needs with resources to help meet those needs. Thousands of available and wanted materials are in the IWE's confidential, free-access database.

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## **Pollution Prevention (P2) Services**

Pollution Prevention engineers provide confidential, non-regulatory environmental technical assistance at no cost to Iowa businesses, industries, institutions and government agencies. Pollution Prevention Services offers opportunity assessments, the nationally-recognized Pollution Prevention Intern

Program, Environmental Management Systems assistance, workshops and educational training. Since 2001, the Pollution Prevention Intern Program has saved Iowa businesses over \$69 million in implemented environmental improvement projects.

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[www.iowap2services.com](http://www.iowap2services.com)

## **Regional Collection Center Program**

Regional Collection Centers (RCCs) are permanent collection facilities designed to properly manage and dispose of hazardous waste from households and conditionally exempt small quantity generator (CESQG) businesses. RCCs accept specific types of hazardous materials that display the following types of characteristics: toxic, flammable, corrosive and reactive. These characteristics can be found in items like cleaners, stains, polish and oils. Many RCCs provide a material exchange (Swap Shop) for usable products. Grants are available to establish a new RCC or improve/expand existing RCC facilities and services. Ongoing support is also provided to RCCs through reimbursement payments to help offset operating expenses.

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[www.safesmartssolutions.org](http://www.safesmartssolutions.org)

## **Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)**

SWAP provides financial and technical assistance to businesses, government agencies, public and private groups and individuals to assist with development and implementation of solid waste management projects to improve environmental performance and the bottom line. By recovering, reusing, and reducing the use of Iowa's valuable resources, SWAP projects save money, create jobs, increase revenue and protect and preserve natural resources by promoting resource management that eases the burden on landfills, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves Iowa's water, air and land quality.

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For more information on any of the FABA programs, go to

[www.iowadnr.gov/faba](http://www.iowadnr.gov/faba)

### **Toxics In Packaging**

Iowa law prohibits the sale or distribution of packaging containing heavy metals such as cadmium, lead, mercury, and hexavalent chromium (if intentionally introduced) and sets limits on the incidental presence of these heavy metals in packaging materials. The purpose of the law is to prevent these toxic heavy metals from entering the environment, recycling stream, landfills and waste incinerators. Iowa's Toxic in Packaging Program conducts both education outreach and random testing to assure packaging compliance in the manufacturing and package distribution industries.

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## **FABA Environmental Education Services**

### **Household Hazardous Materials Education**

In an effort to assist all ages in understanding the concerns and risks associated with household hazardous materials (HHM), several education materials have been developed. Age-specific short videos and interactive computer games are available to help identify HHMs and discuss proper purchase, use, storage and disposal. Small grants are also available for HHM education projects.

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### **Mobile Education Exhibit**

The "Cause & Effect: Your Eco Story" exhibit is an interactive way to learn about the natural resources used in our daily lives, the effects this has on our environment and simple steps that can be taken to minimize the waste of these resources. The exhibit showcases topics such as sustainability, recycling, household hazardous materials and water and energy conservation. Transportation is provided at no cost. The exhibit is also handicapped accessible, heated and air conditioned and available for use year-round.

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### **FABA SECTION SUPERVISOR**

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### **Planet Patrol**

Developed to engage Iowa's youth in environmental stewardship and ethics, Planet Patrol is a series of 12 short videos focusing on the little things that can be done around the house to reduce a household's environmental footprint. Topics including energy and water conservation, recycling, landfills, household hazardous materials, climate change and more. Videos are available for local use.

### **Retailer Consumer Education Program**

It is the policy of the state of Iowa to educate Iowans regarding the hazardous nature of certain household products including proper use, storage and disposal to protect public health and safety and the environment. Iowa law requires retailers that sell HHMs to obtain an annual permit and participate in a consumer information program by providing DNR-supplied education materials to consumers. Iowa law also requires retailers that sell certain HHMs (motor oil, oil filters and lead acid batteries) to accept these used materials for recycling and reuse or to post the nearest collection location for recycling and reuse.

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## **FABA Grants Programs**

### **Derelict Building Grant Program**

The Derelict Building Grant Program works with communities with populations of 5,000 or fewer people who need assistance with addressing abandoned commercial or public buildings, all while diverting construction and demolition materials from the landfill. The Program works with applicants on improving the image and economics of their communities and limits the amount of construction and demolition debris headed to area landfills.

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### **Professional Development Assistance Grant Program**

The PDA Program provides grants to assist with the development and delivery of technical assistance, public awareness, and professional development opportunities for Iowa's solid waste management professionals. Program funds are available to local governments, public and private groups, and individuals.

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