

# IOWA WASTE EXCHANGE STATISTICS 1990 - PRESENT

**4 Million**



**TONS OF WASTE  
DIVERTED**

**116 Million**



**DOLLARS SAVED  
BY IOWANS**

**64,304**



**CLIENTS SERVED**

Established in 1990 by the Iowa State Legislature to divert waste materials from the state's sanitary landfills, the Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE) has a proven record of success.

Since its inception through September 11, 2020, the IWE has matched **16,140** byproducts and other waste materials. The IWE's success in matching materials has resulted in the diversion of over **4 million** tons of waste from Iowa landfills with associated savings of over **\$116 million** in avoided disposal costs, avoided purchases, reduced transportation costs and freed storage space (IWE data pulled from internal IWE database, not publicly accessible pursuant to Iowa Administrative Code regarding confidentiality, for additional confirmation or current statistics contact Bill Blum, bill.blum@dnr.iowa.gov, (515) 725-8376)

The IWE is one of the nation's premiere materials exchange programs. This no-cost, non-regulatory, confidential service matches institutions that produce byproducts and waste with other groups interested in using or recycling those materials. The program assists clients in saving disposal and raw material costs while subsequently enhancing our natural resources through reducing, reusing, recycling and renewing materials.

## SERVICES PROVIDED

- Identification of Marketable Waste and Revenue Streams
- Administration of Waste Sorts
- Location of Markets for Value Added Byproducts
- Location of Byproducts for Production
- Writing/Reviewing Grants, Loans, SOPs, Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Waste Management Plans
- Presentations at Conferences, Workshops, Lunch and Learns and Other Public Speaking Events
- Authoring Guest Articles
- Administration/Organization of Special Projects and Collection Events

### CLIENTS INCLUDE

- Agricultural Pursuits
- Business/Industry
- Schools/Colleges
- Governmental Entities
- Municipalities
- Hospitals and Clinics
- Non Profits

# SUCCESS STORIES EXAMPLES

## Principal Financial

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is the world's leading green building project and performance management system.

Through onsite waste sorts, IWE has assisted Principal Financial Group (PFG) in obtaining LEED certification for three buildings at their downtown Des Moines campus. Locations that have obtained certification include 711 High Street (Corp 1), 750 Park (Corp 4) and 655 9th Street (Corp 2). In February 2020, IWE performed a waste sort at PFG's onsite Child Development Center located at 801 Park. Audit reports have been submitted and LEED certification is currently pending for this location.



PFG'S 655 9th Street location

Through the waste audit process, PFG has implemented recommendations provided by IWE. Implementation of these recommendations has diverted nearly 3200 tons of material annually resulting in an annual cost savings of nearly \$105,000.

## City of Des Moines and Operation Downtown

The City of Des Moines and Operation Downtown have established a recycling program aimed at creating a cleaner and greener Downtown Des Moines. Recycle DSM aligns with the City of Des Moines' comprehensive plan which calls for the reduction of solid waste headed to the landfill. IWE has assisted with the pilot and the continued expansion of the program, which has included the Historic East Village, Western Gateway Park, Iowa Events Center and the Court Avenue Farmer's Market. IWE provides continual assistance in assessing and expanding the program.



According to Amy Lego, Executive Director for Operation Downtown, "The Iowa Waste Exchange, has been an incredible resource for Recycle DSM, Downtown Des Moines' public space recycling program. With her recycling expertise, our Area Resource Specialist has directed waste audits and generated results for our various recycling districts. The results from the audits and tracking have helped shape our education campaign and improve future (or expanded) recycling efforts. She has given us recycling contacts and program tips and even reviewed and edited a recycling grant application. Her enthusiasm and willingness to help has been a great asset to our staff and the Recycle DSM program."

ADDITIONAL IWE SUCCESS STORIES MAY BE FOUND at:  
[www.iowadnr.gov/FABA](http://www.iowadnr.gov/FABA)

# SPECIAL PROJECT EXAMPLES

## Farm Bureau, West Hancock and Garner-Hayfield Schools

In September 2019, Area Resource Specialists worked with 120 students from West Hancock and Garner-Hayfield Ventura Schools at the Hancock County Farm Bureau's annual agriculture fair. Onsite educational stations focused on topics including farm animals, commodities, safety and waste reduction and recycling.

Area Resource Specialists assisted students onsite in making **Thank You** magnets utilizing upcycled floor tiles and advertising magnets diverted from the landfill by IWE and acquired from Iowa State University. The magnets along with notes created by the students using recycled greeting cards were collected and later included in individual **snack packs** that were distributed to area farmers during the 2019 harvest by staff members of MaxYield Cooperative.



*Magnets made from recycled floor tiles and repurposed advertising magnets.*

## Iowa State Fair - Reusapalooza

FY 2019 marked Reusapalooza's seventh year at the DNR Courtyard at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. IWE organizes and administers the annual event and ensures that all projects offer a hands-on learning opportunity for all skill levels.

At Reusapalooza, fairgoers - 500 annually (adults and children alike) are offered the opportunity to create upcycled, take-home projects and view onsite demonstrations of items that can be created from upcycled materials. Three projects and one demonstration are selected annually. Project selections are based on IWE interactions during the previous year and by evaluating available materials that might potentially be used in executing Reusapalooza.



*Dan Wardell interviewing a Reusapalooza participant for a PBS broadcast of Iowa State Fair highlights.*

## MEDIA COVERAGE OF SELECT SPECIAL PROJECTS

Iowa Public Television Iowa State Fair Reusapalooza - <http://www.iptv.org/fair/story/31320/fair-2018-friday-august-17>

F & W Media Crocheting Plastic Bags into Sleeping Mats for the Homeless- <https://www.interweave.com/article/crochet/crochet-for-good-craft-make-plarn-and-help-people/>

Hancock County Ag Fair [https://globegazette.com/community/brittnewstribune/news/photos-west-hancock-students-participates-in-ag-fair/collection\\_2d0e0fd8-e7e0-559f-b3b5-aa43f7e78d17.html](https://globegazette.com/community/brittnewstribune/news/photos-west-hancock-students-participates-in-ag-fair/collection_2d0e0fd8-e7e0-559f-b3b5-aa43f7e78d17.html)

Preservation Sunday, Clear Lake Central Gardens: [https://www.kimt.com/content/news/Celebrating-the-meaning-of-preserving-560448451.html?fbclid=IwAR3e0gONQ5-SBwzZ1ESSxMqmXJz4mreoN2iAvQJmCcznShJadld1BHFOzwQ#.XX\\_rjTfuaJc.facebook](https://www.kimt.com/content/news/Celebrating-the-meaning-of-preserving-560448451.html?fbclid=IwAR3e0gONQ5-SBwzZ1ESSxMqmXJz4mreoN2iAvQJmCcznShJadld1BHFOzwQ#.XX_rjTfuaJc.facebook)

## NATIONAL REPLICABILITY



In FY 2019, IWE was solicited by Recycle Colorado to provide technical assistance and guidance for a similar program they launched in FY 2020.

In FY 2019, IWE was contacted by Maryland Department of the Environment to obtain and duplicate a Waste Minimization Toolkit created by IWE for schools in Iowa. Access the Toolkit at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov).

## INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

### YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

In FY 2019, IWE was asked by Georgetown University to organize and administer Iowa-based tours for a grant-funded *Youth Ambassadors Program*. Environmental protection, youth leadership, civic engagement, social entrepreneurship and social-cultural programming were focus areas of the program. Twenty students between the ages of 15-18 from Panama, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Dominican Republic and their chaperones participated in this opportunity.

Ambassadors toured the Waste Commission of Scott County's Recycling Center, Davenport Water Pollution Control Plant and Compost Facility and Nahant Marsh - the largest Urban wetland on the upper Mississippi River. Ambassadors also participated in a hands-on sculpture building activity. The sculpture was built from recycled materials and is now on display at Scott Community College.



*Youth Ambassadors posing by bales of recyclables at Scott County's Recycling Facility*

## COVID 19 AND DERECHO RESPONSE



*Masks made from upcycled canvas bags*



*Bags made from upcycled teeshirts*

Since the onset of the Covid 19 Pandemic in March 2020 and the Derecho on August 10, 2020, Area Resource Specialists have and will continue to assist healthcare organizations, non profits, businesses, municipalities, governmental agencies and private individuals in securing recycled materials to facilitate the production of personal protective equipment. Materials matched to date include but are not limited to; textiles to produce face masks and gowns and transparencies and plastic materials to produce face shields

Reducing food waste has been a top priority for IWE throughout this unprecedented time. Area Resource Specialists have and will continue to assist multiple nonprofit agencies, livestock producers and businesses in securing recycled materials used for the collection and distribution of food throughout this ongoing crisis. Materials matched to date to assist in moving and distributing food include coolers, ice packs and bags (made from upcycled teeshirts.)

Access a video regarding a joint emergency response project of IWE,

Iowa State University and Food Bank of Iowa at: <https://www.facebook.com/iowadnr/videos/618292755723514>



*Coolers diverted from the landfill from a livestock pharmaceutical company*

# TESTIMONIALS

“Due to changing economic conditions and new environmental stewardship opportunities, the Iowa Waste Exchange is more important now than ever. Iowa businesses are fortunate to have this resource providing economical assistance and options that they may otherwise never be aware of.”

**-WILLIAM L. ROWLAND DIRECTOR, LANDFILL OF NORTH IOWA**

“The Iowa Waste Exchange knows little bounds. Their ability to take discarded materials and repurpose it to help stop the spread of the virus and keep people safe is the highest of callings in recycling! A-TEC Recycling is very happy to be a small part in their efforts, they are truly an inspiration to all of us here and we want to keep helping her fight the right fight!”

**-LARRY YOUNG, OWNER, ATEC RECYCLING**

“The Iowa Waste Exchange is a valuable program enhancing the economic success and environmental responsibility of Iowa business and industry.”

**-MICHELE BONEY, DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND HEALTH, WEST LIBERTY FOODS**

“Without the outreach provided by Iowa Waste Exchange, we may not have considered some of the less obvious ways to repurpose and recycle waste coming off our project. The Iowa Waste Exchange provide a great resource for our State.”

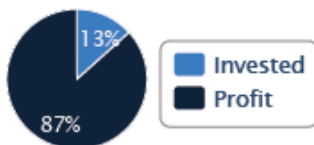
**-LAURA MANATT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, POWESHIEK IOWA DEVELOPMENT**

“The value that the Iowa Waste Exchange provides, not only to Metro Waste Authority and the customers we serve, but as an industry leader, is invaluable and we hope to continue our partnership for years to come.”

**-LESLIE IRLBECK, PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER, METRO WASTE AUTHORITY**

# RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Investment Gain	<b>\$2,600,000.00</b>
ROI	<b>650.00%</b>
Annualized ROI	<b>650.00%</b>
Investment Length	1.00 years



The Iowa Waste Exchange is funded by Solid Waste Fees remitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The Iowa Waste Fees are paid on each ton of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfilled in Iowa.

Remittance fees paid to DNR fund waste reduction programs throughout the state including but not limited to IWE. IWE receives approximately \$400,000 annually to administer the program which has averaged an annual cost savings of \$3 million per year.