



WasteWrap

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Members: Burlington, Danville,
 Des Moines County, Mediapolis,
 Middletown, Morning Sun,
 Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Union,
 New London, Rome, Salem,
 W. Burlington, Westwood,
 Winfield



A publication of the
 DMC Regional Waste Commission

Twenty Years of Playing "Monopoly"



Hal Morton
 Executive Director

This year is the 20th Anniversary of the DMC Regional Solid Waste Commission. Before 1990, the landfill we are still using today was operated in turn by the City of Burlington, then Des Moines County, and then by private contractors hired by Des Moines County. While Des Moines County had a single recycling dropoff in the late 1980s, area-wide recycling and other waste diversion services were not available until after the Commission was formed.

The Commission was formed in a time of changing regulatory climate – a time of rising public awareness and expectations for environmental protection. While federal regulations were transforming disposal sites from local dumps to high-tech containment facilities, Iowa state regulations were establishing integrated regional planning as the norm for man-

aging the waste stream. The goal of integrated solid waste planning was to expand solid waste management beyond safe disposal to encourage waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting. Iowa chose to accomplish these goals by encouraging regional consolidation. Many old county and city dumps from the 1970s (including the Henry County Landfill) were closed. Remaining landfills were upgraded and expanded to regional facilities with intergovernmental agreements and agencies to manage them.

In 1990, Des Moines County Supervisors decided to work with area municipalities to form a regional solid waste commission. Des Moines County contributed the landfill property and equipment, and area local governments joined in the financial and oversight responsibility. Incipient recycling programs in Des Moines County and in Mt. Pleasant were quickly expanded into area-wide services. Over the last twenty years, these services have been slowly expanded to include yardwaste composting, Household Hazardous Waste management, appliance demanufacturing, and most recently, electronics recycling.

The Commission was organized in a way that preserved direct policy oversight by the member communities. Each member government, regardless of size, has a vote on the board, and Burlington, the largest member, has 3 votes. This organizational format has

functioned much like a publicly owned utility, with professional staff conducting the daily operations, and the representative board setting policy, pricing, and overseeing the operations.

Previously established private businesses in the waste industry operating within the Commission's service area have always been respected, and the Commission has never attempted to force them out of business, out of the area, or even to directly compete with them in their established services. Garbage collection and hauling has continued to be provided by a combination of private and municipal waste haulers. City Carton Recycling, in Mt. Pleasant, continues to provide commercial recycling collection and processing services throughout the planning area. As demand for commercial recycling service has grown, many of the private waste haulers now offer recycling collection for businesses, and those materials are taken to either City Carton or the Commission's Area Recyclers facility. Most recently, Hope Haven has begun providing commercial recycling service for small businesses in the area.

Competition has thrived in the collection business both before and since the formation of the Commission. There have been a few mergers and acquisitions as well as some new small business startups. Responsibility for safe disposal of solid waste has always been placed on local government under state law, and in Iowa, most local governments have shouldered this responsibility by owning or partnering in publicly owned landfills. In other words, Iowa landfills, with very few exceptions, have historically been structured as public utilities, and have never been operated as competitive enterprise. What some critics may decry as "monopolies" have protected the public interest by keeping revenue streams (tipping fees) tied to local governmental responsibilities under state law. While individual haulers could conceivably short-change the public utility for immediate personal gain (by using out of state landfills), such activity would unfairly be at the expense of all other area residents and businesses.

Fortunately, our board structure, with direct representation from all member communities, has helped to ensure that services and rates are balanced to provide reasonable, cost effective services for all.

Ask Professor Garbologist

? Dear Professor Garbologist: I live just north of Burlington and often bring our recyclables to the recycling drop off area at Area Recyclers. Recently, I noticed signs on the cardboard trailers stating that cereal boxes, soda and beer cartons, and tissue boxes are not accepted. I have always put them in the recycling before but now I am confused. Help! Michelle, Burlington.

A Hello Michelle: Thanks for writing in and thanks for noticing our new signs! Area Recyclers has never accepted cereal boxes, soda or beer cartons, or tissue boxes (or similar type boxes) for recycling. We have always tried to convey that message with our recycling guides and educational materials, but somehow the message seems to miss some people so we are trying again by placing signs at our Area Recyclers drop off location. Area Recyclers only accepts corrugated cardboard, or as we tell the young people, the wavy cardboard, the cardboard with the squiggly middle. Cereal and tissue type boxes are made from chipboard which is not generally suitable for recycling. Soda and beer cartons are made from boxboard which is usually wax-coated and also contains strands of fiber that aren't recyclable. When we do receive these unacceptable materials at our drop off it increases our costs because we have to separate them and throw them into the trash.

Have a question for Professor Garbologist? Send it to us and you could win a free coffee mug made from recycled newspaper or denim. Send your questions to feedback@dmcwaste.org, or mail them to Professor Garbologist, c/o Area Recyclers, 1818 W. Burlington Ave., Burlington, IA 525601.



DMC Regional Waste Commission holiday schedule

Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day are holidays for the DMC Regional Waste Commission and all agency locations and offices will be closed to the public. The Christmas Day holiday will be observed on Friday, December 24th. The New Year's Day holiday will be observed on Friday, December 31st.

For the Thanksgiving holiday, Burlington area residents who normally have recycling collected on Thursday will have their recyclables collected on Wednesday, November 24th. Please have recyclables placed curbside in your Area Recyclers con-

tainer(s) by 7:30am to ensure collection. Wednesday's regular route is not affected. Normal hours and collection resume on Friday.

For the Christmas holiday, Burlington area residents who normally have recycling collected on Friday will have their recyclables collected on Thursday, December 23. Thursday's regular route is not affected.

For the New Year's Day holiday residents of Mediapolis and Morning Sun who normally have their recyclables collected on Friday will have their recycling collected on Thursday, December 30th.

TakeAway – State Funding Approved for 2nd Year of Med Disposal Initiative

During the 2010 legislative session, Iowa law makers approved funding for *TakeAway*, Iowa's statewide medication disposal program. The *TakeAway* program is administered through the Iowa Pharmacy Association (IPA) and regulatory oversight is provided by the Iowa Board of Pharmacy. *TakeAway* launched in November 2009, and to date over 400 community pharmacies are participating in all of Iowa's 99 counties. *TakeAway* aims to ensure safe medication use among Iowans and to protect the environment from disposal of unused and expired medications entering and water ways.



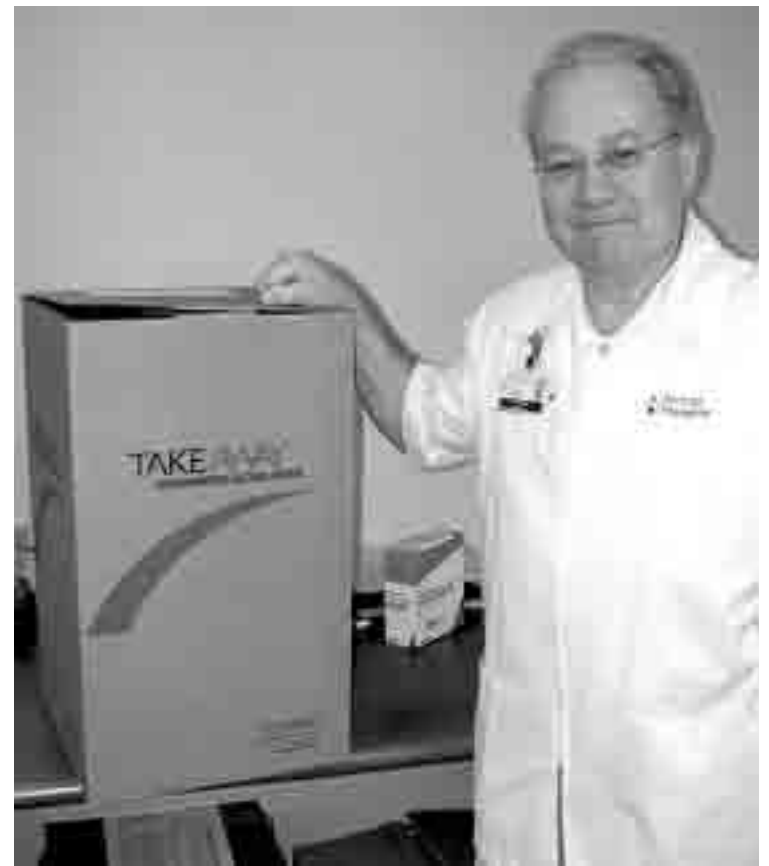
During the first eleven months of *TakeAway*, greater than 7,680 pounds of unused and expired drugs have been collected and shipped for destruction. This figure does not represent the total amount of medications collected, as all 405 participating pharmacies have partially-filled *TakeAway* systems that have not yet been shipped.

To learn more about *TakeAway* program, and find **local participating pharmacies** and other information, please visit <http://www.iarx.org/takeaway/>.

To properly dispose of unused and expired medications, simply bring the medications (in their original packaging or vials) to a participating pharmacy. All prescription and over-the-counter medications are acceptable for return through *TakeAway*, excluding controlled substances. To learn of controlled substance disposal events, visit the <http://www.iarx.org/takeaway/> *TakeAway* website or <http://www.americanmedicinechest.com/> American Medicine Chest

Challenge, a national one-day take-back initiative November 13th. Examples of items accepted include pills, tablets, capsules, ointments, creams, lotions, powders, inhalers, nebulizer solutions, liquids less than 4 oz., solutions/suspensions.

If you would like additional information or materials to help promote *TakeAway* in your community, contact your local participating pharmacy. Participating pharmacies in the DMC Regional Waste Commission service area include both Hy-Vee pharmacies in Burlington, Heritage Park Pharmacy in West Burlington, Carruthers Pharmacy in Mediapolis, Hy-Vee clinic Pharmacy in Mt. Pleasant, Hy-Vee Drugstore in Mt. Pleasant, and the Hy-Vee Pharmacy in Mt. Pleasant.



Tom Greene from Heritage Park Pharmacy is pictured with their Rx *TakeAway* box. Heritage will accept medications from customers of any pharmacy for their *TakeAway* box.

It's an electronics time of year

If Santa's sleigh delivers a flashy new TV, computer, or other electronics item to your house this year take note that as of July 1, 2010, electronics with screens have been banned from landfill disposal and are required to be disposed of at the HazChem Center. Here is a guide for residents and businesses wishing to dispose of electronics with screens, defined as televisions, monitors, anything containing a cathode ray tube (CRT), portable dvd players, and laptop computers. The HazChem Center is located inside the DMC Regional Landfill and will accept electronics with screens during regular landfill hours. Fees will apply for disposal of these items and are listed as follows:

- Console TV's and TV's 27" and larger- \$20
- CRT's and TV's smaller than 27"- \$15
- Flat panel TV's, monitors, laptop computers, other- \$.75 per pound

The ban is necessary because these types of materials typically contain high concentrations of precious metals that can be recycled as well as toxic materials for which there are better options than placing them in a landfill. In August of 2009 the HazChem Center began accepting electronic waste for disposal. The EPA currently bans business from disposing of these materials in landfills which means this ban only impacts residents.

Residents will need to contact their trash hauler for specific questions regarding how this ban impacts how they can dispose of these items without taking them to the landfill. For detailed questions about what is included in the electronics with screens landfill ban, please contact the HazChem Center at (319) 753-8758 or 1-877-HAZCHEM(429-2438).



TV's and monitors are prepped for shipment to Midwest Electronic Recyclers in Walford, IA. All e-waste accepted at the HazChem Center is processed and recycled domestically.

Thank You!
to Everyone Who
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What is "Recycled 2 You?"

A: Recycled 2 You is a small gift shop located inside the Area Recyclers building. The shop features a changing variety of unique items made from recycled materials. These items are manufactured by companies typically located throughout the United States and Canada.

Is Recycled 2 You a re-sale or thrift shop?

A: No. Items for sale in the store are new items made by companies who have produced a new product from recycled materials such as plastic water bottles, soap and milk jugs, glass, licensed sports jerseys, bicycle parts, license plates, and rubber to name just a few.

How much do items cost at Recycled 2 You?

A: There are items for sale for as little as \$8 for bicycle chain bracelet to \$70 for a Swarovski crystal hair purse. The store's purpose is to raise awareness of what can be done with recycled materials, not to generate huge profits.

Those hand shaped chairs I've seen around town... do you have any?

A: Not any more. Sadly the company we were getting them from is no longer handling them and it is cost prohibitive for us to order them directly from the manufacturer in Chicago. Stay tuned—we are watching for a way to carry them again!

What's the most popular item sold at Recycled 2 You?

A: That's a tough question to answer, everyone has different tastes. The stuffed animals made from recycled water and pop bottles are new and have been very popular. The jewelry from Christy Fisher studios is quite popular too. Sports fans have been very happy with our new selection of items for Hawkeyes, Cubs, Cardinals, Bears, and Colts fans and we have items for a few other teams as well. The hoodies and bag houses are always in demand too. New items are added when our budget allows.

What are your hours? Phone number?

A: The store is open Monday-Friday 8am-4pm, and the second and fourth Saturdays 8-11 AM. We can try to accommodate special hours as needed during the Christmas shopping season. Our phone number is (319) 773-9126 or 1-800-216-8126.

Do you give tours or presentations about the store? Do you sell items at craft fairs?

A: Tours or presentations are available by request. We love to show off our items, so come see us or call us. At this time we have not sold items anywhere but at the store. We really want people to come see us, because at the same time they may learn something about recycling!

Why don't I see items that are featured at Recycled 2 You for sale elsewhere?

A: Simply put, it's the lack of demand. If more consumers asked for recycled content items then perhaps some of the major retailers would carry them. Currently more items can only be found via the internet, companies like Pango and.com, Lifestuff.com, Recycled2You.com, (for example).

Bring in this
coupon section
for
10% off
your purchase
from
Recycled 2 You!

Gift Ideas from Recycled

You

Located
inside
Area Recyclers



Household comfort tips for winter

Energy saving ideas for winter

- Use a programmable thermostat to program your thermostat at 70 degrees or under daytime and under 65 at night.
- If you haven't had a furnace tune-up in over a year, consider having one. It might be money well spent to clean your furnace and sensors and have your vent pipes checked. Alliant energy customers can receive a \$40 rebate for a furnace check up. Visit www.alliantenergy.com for more details.
- Keep curtains closed in the evening and night time
- Open south facing curtains during the daylight
- Seal drafty doors or windows
- Check your gas water heater to ensure the flame is blue and strong.

Visit your utility provider's website for a complete list of rebates available. Alliant energy customers visit <http://www.alliantenergy.com/Utility-Services/ForYourHome/index.htm>

Access energy customers visit <http://www.accessenergycoop.com/Content/Residential/Rebates.aspx> or call 866-242-4232.

Businesses can also qualify for selected rebates and energy assistance. Please ask your provider for details.



To improve winter indoor air quality:

- Make sure your furnace filter is clean
- Use a high efficiency pleated furnace filter
- Humidify indoor air to a level around 40%
- If your garage is attached, do not "warm up" your car or truck while it is in the garage, even if the door is open
- Use your exhaust fan on your range hood when cooking
- Use natural cleaners and avoid harsh chemicals when cleaning

Pollution prevention intern opportunity

Companies throughout southeast Iowa are invited to submit an application for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Pollution Prevention Services P2 Intern Program. This program has been utilized by several area businesses including GE, Federal Mogul, and American Ordnance. These businesses have realized significant fiscal and environmental benefits through the P2 Intern program. Since 2001, Pollution Prevention Interns have saved over 100 companies more than 62 million dollars in addition to conserving 1.04 billion gallons of water, avoiding over 198,000 tons of solid and special waste and saving 287 million kWh of energy.

The cost of the internship for new participants is covered by the program. There are a limited number of projects for the summer 2011 program. Applications and additional information about the program are available by Iowa DNR at www.iowaswap2services.com. Specific questions about the program or requests to obtain a hard copy of the application should be directed to Dani Dilks, Intern Coordinator, at (515) 281-8063 or email at Danielle.Dilks@dnr.iowa.gov.



Recycle your phone books

Businesses and residents are reminded that their Yellowbook and Dex phone books are recyclable items and can be placed in your curbside recycling bin. Businesses and rural residents are encouraged to recycle their phone books by placing them in any of the 9 recycling drop off locations throughout Des Moines County or to bring them to the drop off located at Area Recyclers.

TOURS and PRESENTATIONS

These people came to see us. Tours and presentations are available for all ages and group sizes and can include information about the landfill, HazChem Center, and recycling. Tours and presentations can be scheduled during normal business hours or for evenings and weekends. Contact Darven Kendell, Education Coordinator, at (319) 753-8126, toll free at 800-216-8126, or via email at feedback@dm-waste.org and we'll put you on our calendar.

- Burlington Christ Episcopal Church summer bible school
- New London High school recycling group
- Hope Haven
- West Burlington 5th grade
- Iowa Wesleyan College Global Issues class
- Blackhawk Wolf Cub Scouts
- West Burlington Wolf Cub Scouts



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Composting Essentials

Three sure signs that fall is approaching: Falling temperatures, children returning to school, and trees losing their leaves. All area residents are reminded that leaves and grass clippings may be disposed of at no charge at the DMC Regional Landfill. Please do not burn leaves.

Home composting is an excellent alternative for your own yard waste, however, and can easily be accomplished by following these simple guidelines.

Composting Essentials	How To/Tips
Site Selection	Position compost on level, well-drained soil. Place in an area that receives some direct sunlight to soak up solar heat. If you intend to compost year round, some shade or indirect sunlight is essential to keep your compost pile from drying out.
Reduce Particle Size	The more surface area the microorganisms have to work, the faster the materials decompose. This can be done by chopping or shredding leaves and other yard waste before adding to the pile.
Moisture	Microorganisms need moisture to make use of organic molecules. The pile should have a moisture content of 40%-60% and feel like a well-wringing sponge. Adding the correct balance of plant materials or watering your compost pile will help.
Aeration	Oxygen is vital to efficient decomposition. Turning or mixing the compost material with a shovel or pitchfork will help air reach the composting microbes and speed up the process.
Temperature	As microorganisms decompose organic materials, they generate heat. A pile with a temperature of 90-140 degrees Fahrenheit is composting efficiently. In colder months the process will most likely slow.
Volume	A large composting pile will insulate itself and hold heat, however smaller piles will have trouble retaining the heat they generate. Piles that range from 3-5 cubic feet are recommended.
Ingredients	Materials such as leaves, grass, garden weeds, herbs, flowers, fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, grains, tea bags, egg shells, corn cobs, and fresh manure are all good to include in a compost pile.

An informational composting wheel chart is available from Area Recyclers. The ISU extension office also has information available about successful composting. Additional composting information can be found via the internet by visiting any of these websites: www.composters.com, www.cleanairgarden.com, or www.greenerchoices.org.

2011 Collection Calendars

Curbside collection calendars for 2011 will be distributed beginning the week of November 15th. Calendars will be placed in residential recycling bins. Collection calendars will also be available for download after December 1st from our website at www.wastewrap.org and click on the Area Recyclers icon.

If you have questions about the holiday collection schedule or about the 2011 curbside collection calendars, please contact Area Recyclers at (319) 753-8126 or email us at feedback@dmcwaste.org.

Wrapping paper, ribbons, toy boxes, and bows...oh my!

After the thrill of seeing what good ole Santa left for everyone on Christmas morning comes the unenviable job of "cleaning up". The Elves at Area Recyclers and the DMC Regional Landfill are asking you to follow this handy chart to keep your holiday trash in check, and keep yourself off the "Scrooge" list!

	Recyclable	Trash
Toy boxes (non-corrugated)		X
Toy boxes (corrugated, layered with "squiggly line")	X	
Plastic window from toy boxes		X
Styrofoam (any type)		X
Shirt boxes		X
Corrugated boxes from electronics, etc.	X	
2 Liter bottles of soda used for holiday punch	X	
Empty metal vegetable cans used for casseroles	X	
Wrapping paper		X
Greeting cards		X
Old/nonworking Christmas lights		X
Lump of coal Santa left you	X	
Plastic grocery sacks (may recycle only at Wal-Mart, Target, Tom's, Fareway, & HyVee, otherwise it's-----X		

As always, if you have any questions, please contact us at (319) 753-8126, find us on Facebook keyword "Area Recyclers," or visit our website www.wastewrap.org. Merry Christmas



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and Thank Everyone
Who Does!**

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Getting to know...

Regular visitors to the landfill or Hazchem Center may have noticed some new faces greeting them. Recently WasteWrap sat down with them to learn more about them. Be sure to give them a friendly hello the next time you are at the landfill.

Sam Thomson - Scale attendant/HazChem technician. Hometown- Mediapolis, IA. Sam started work as the main scale attendant in September.

Wayne Stumpf - HazChem technician/Scale attendant. Hometown- Burlington, IA. Wayne started work in the HazChem technician position in July.

James Holsteen - Laborer at the DMC Regional Landfill. Hometown- Burlington, IA.

WasteWrap: What do you like about working for the DMC Regional Waste Commission?

Sam: I really enjoy interacting with different people and meeting new people. This is an entirely new experience for me and so far I am really enjoying it.

Wayne: I really enjoy the diversity of my position and not doing the same thing every day. The people here are really good to work with.

James: I enjoy having different tasks to do each day and throughout the day. Sometimes I'm helping

others, sometimes I'm working alone. The customers are usually nice and appreciate what I do to help them.

WW: What do you wish people knew more about when coming to the landfill or HazChem Center?

Sam: I wish people knew what they can bring and cannot bring to the landfill. By that I mean I wish people were more familiar with recycling and the HazChem Center. I see people throwing items that can be recycled into the trash dumpsters at the public drop off and I wonder why they don't recycle them- cardboard is a big one. And I also have people drive up and they have a box of spray paints and they don't realize we have a HazChem Center to properly dispose of them.

Wayne: I wish people understood how important it is to keep chemicals separated. Sometimes people come in with all their household chemical containers in one bucket and they need to be kept separate.

James: It is really important to put items in the proper containers at the public drop off area. Sometimes people don't pay attention and



Left to right: Wayne Stumpf, James Holsteen and Samantha Thomsom.

when something gets put into the wrong container it can be very frustrating to correct their mistake.

WW: What has surprised you about working here?

Sam: I am really surprised by the numbers of people who come out here. The public drop off area always has 2 or 3 vehicles there. I was also unaware of how many general products that we use that are hazardous...an example would be finger nail polish.

Wayne: I'm amazed at the people who don't realize we have surveillance cameras and think they can do things without anyone seeing them. Working as scale attendant is a much more challenging position than people realize.

James: I am surprised by how many people come here every day.

Recycling resolutions or a resolution to recycle?

How many of us will, in about six weeks, welcome the new year by making pledges, vows, and resolutions? Isn't it funny how we tend to turn January 1st into an excuse to reform ourselves? Despite our best intentions, however, many of us end up discarding or abandoning those plans, often before we can even glimpse the end of January. Will this year bring another round of resolutions that fade with the passing of the days? Let's hope not. Let's propose to actually achieve some of those lofty goals, beginning with one. One seems easy, right? One goal, and the best way to achieve a goal is to make it reasonable to accomplish. What if we all pledged to make a change for the better this next January; one habit we improve or perhaps one bad habit we eliminate? My proposal to you is this . . . instead of "recycling" resolutions from years past, which we sometimes have not achieved anyway, why not make a fresh resolution- a resolution to begin recycling or to improve your current efforts? This "recycling resolution," so to speak, could be as simple as vowing to no longer throw that water or "hydration beverage" bottle into the trash bag or to put a box for recycling paper underneath that printer at work. Starting small can lead to bigger and better things. New Year's resolutions can be quite powerful in motivating us to better ourselves and improve our impact on the world around us. This is why making a recycling resolution is all the more important . . . the payoff is real, not just for you but also for your family, your neighbors, your community, your state . . . little splashes that send ripples around the world.



Happy Holidays

From the staff at the
**DMC Regional
Waste
Commission**

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keyword "Area Recyclers";
become a fan today!