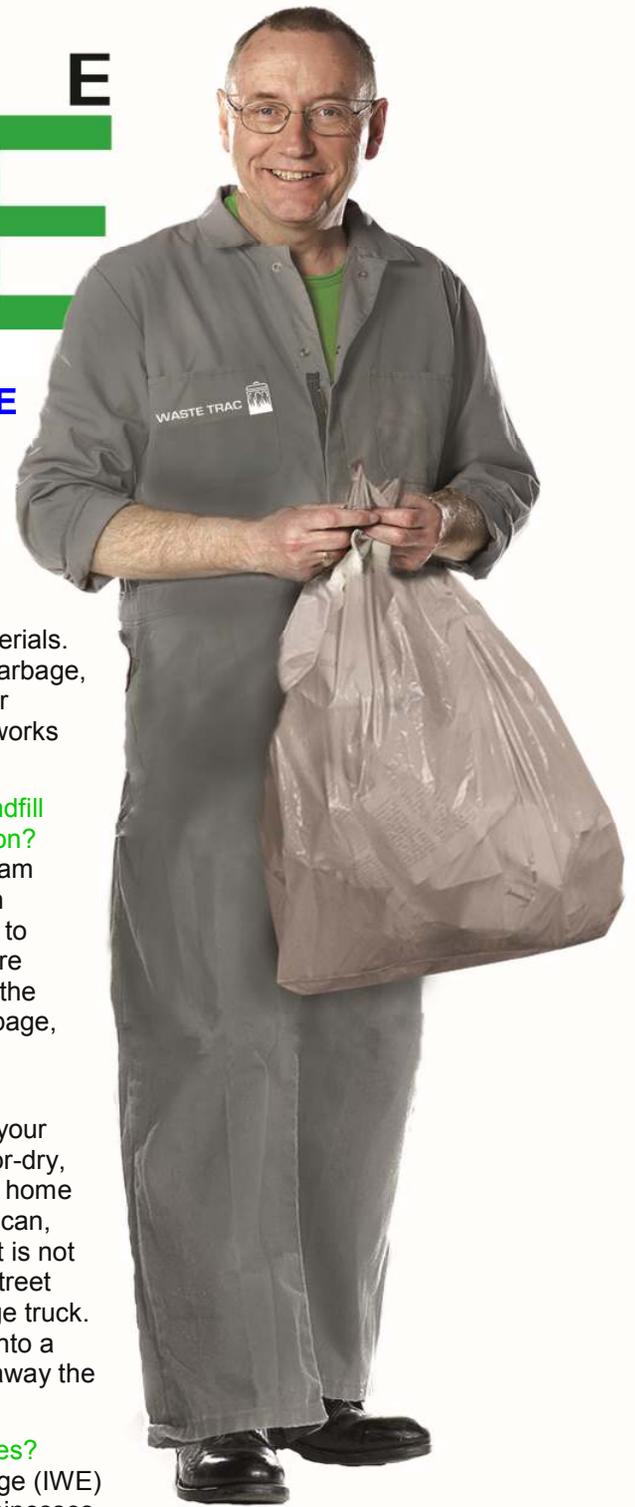




WASTE WISE

NEWSLETTER FOR THE
BLACK HAWK COUNTY SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT COMMISSION



ASK THE SOLID WASTE COMMISSION....

The Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission is a five person board that owns and oversees the operation of the Black Hawk County Landfill. They also sponsor an educational outreach team (see Page 4) and special drop-off events for residents to get rid of household toxic materials and unwanted electric/electronic items (see Page 2).

What are the landfill's hours and payment options?

The landfill is open Monday-Friday (7:30 AM-4:30 PM) and Saturday (7:30 AM-12:30 PM). Cash and checks are accepted.

Is the landfill staffed by county employees?

All landfill operations and services are provided on a contract basis. Currently, a private company called Waste Tech provides all of the day-to-day operations at the landfill.

Do only loose/lightweight garbage items need to be covered with a tarp?

The Commission's policy states that ALL loads must be transported inside of a closed vehicle OR covered 100% with a tarp, tied down, and secured from the point of origin. This policy keeps waste from falling off vehicles on the way to the landfill and reduces roadside litter.



Why does the landfill close on windy days?

The landfill must be able to ensure safe dumping conditions for ALL haulers and is required to keep waste from leaving the site (including lightweight blowable materials like paper and plastic bags). The ability to do both is determined by the wind speed/direction and depth/location of where materials are being buried within the landfill cell.

Can people still get compost from the landfill?

No. The landfill is trying to reduce the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer, so any vegetation brought to the landfill stays at the landfill.

My garbage/recycling/yard waste did not get picked up today! Who should I call?

The Commission does not collect any materials. Each city government has customized a garbage, yard waste, and recycling program for their residents. Contact your city hall or public works department for your city's specific policies.

Who do I call to schedule a program or landfill tour for my students, scouts, or organization?

The two-person Waste Trac Education Team provides guided landfill tours and outreach activities for the Commission at no charge to groups within Black Hawk County. For more information, visit wastetrac.org, check out the "Waste Trac Education Team" Facebook page, call 266-8722, or see Page 4 for details.

How do I get rid of old paint?

Paint needs to be solidified and placed in your regular trash collection. Use kitty litter, floor-dry, or a waste paint hardener (purchased at a home improvement store). If paint is dried in the can, leave the lid off to let your collector know it is not liquid. Liquid paint makes a mess on the street when the can is crushed inside the garbage truck. Spray paint can be sprayed (until empty) into a cardboard box or on newspapers. Throw away the empty spray can and dried paint.

Does the Commission work with businesses?

They partner with the Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE) representative for our area. IWE helps businesses, schools, hospitals, and communities save disposal costs and protect the environment by matching unwanted items with other groups interested in those materials. For details, contact Ben Kvigne at 319-235-0311 (ext. 125) or bkvigne@inrcog.org.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
Spring Household Toxic Materials & Electronics Recycling Drop-off Event
 Saturday, April 9th from 9 AM - 2 PM

TOXIC MATERIALS & ELECTRONICS DROP-OFF

Twice per year, the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission co-sponsors electronics recycling and household toxic materials drop-off events. BOTH events are open to ALL Black Hawk County residents to get rid of approved items from their homes and garages (some fees may apply). The Spring Event is hosted by the City of Waterloo and the Fall Event is hosted by the City of Cedar Falls. The proper disposal of chemicals and recycling of all electric/electronic items collected during these events are paid for by the Solid Waste Management Commission.

The next drop-off event will be held on Saturday, April 9th from 9 AM – 2 PM at the Waterloo Waste Water Treatment Plant (3505 Easton Avenue). On the day of the event, follow the signs from the corner of Highway 218 and Mitchell Avenue to the drop-off site. Volunteers will unload your items for you. For safety reasons, you must stay in your vehicle. Business waste will not be accepted.

Midwest Electronics Recovery will recycle all unwanted electronics. Each vehicle/household may bring two Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) containing devices for free (older TV's and computer monitors with the bump in the back). Additional CRTs are \$5 each (with no limit). Please bring exact cash only. Bills larger than \$20 will not be accepted. All hard drives will be shredded. Many other electronic and electrical items (flat screen TVs/ monitors, keyboards, vacuums, VCR/DVD players, radios, stereos, treadmills, holiday lights, game systems, and much more) will be recycled at no cost. A complete list of accepted items can be found at WasteTrac.org.



Black Hawk County households can get rid of old lawn chemicals, cleaners, propane tanks, fluorescent light bulbs (compact and tube), clogged aerosol cans (including aerosol spray paint), old gasoline, mercury thermometers, and much more. Chemists from Clean Harbors Environmental will be on-site during the one-day event to sort the hazardous materials for safe disposal.



Approximately 50 volunteers (Age 18+) are needed to make these community events possible! Volunteers assist with unloading items, directing traffic, surveying participants, and making this event run as efficiently as possible. Two volunteer shifts are available: from 7:45 AM - 2:00 PM or from 7:45 AM - 12:15 PM. To volunteer, contact Tammy Turner at 266-TRAC (8722) or by email at tturner@co.black-hawk.ia.us.

The following items will not be accepted at the event: paint (Page 1), appliances (including microwaves, stoves, dryers, dehumidifiers, washers, refrigerators, air conditioners, etc. - Page 3), tires, motor oil, antifreeze, asbestos, ammunition, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, radioactive materials, or non-hazardous waste. Electronics waste and hazardous materials from businesses will not be accepted.

The Fall drop-off event date (in Cedar Falls) is yet to be determined.



At the Cedar Falls event last September, volunteers helped 912 vehicles and filled 117 pallets with almost 65,000 lbs of electronics.



REUSING AND RECYCLING: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Most people should be familiar with the household items that are part of their municipal recycling programs, but sometimes you may come across an item and think “what do I do with this?” Here are some FAQs that the Waste Trac Education Team office gets:

I'm cleaning out my closets. Does anyone want my Hawaiian shirt from 1983?

Thrift shops and consignment shops can take a large variety of materials that are still in good shape, but check their policies to find out what they can and cannot take. And if the answer is no, there is always Pinterest!

What can I do with my pedestal sink from my last remodeling project?

Exciting news for the Cedar Valley - the Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity's ReStore (4107 Hammond Ave, Waterloo) can take new or gently used home improvement items for reuse. They accept home improvement supplies such as hardware, doors, gently used furniture, framed art, books, light fixtures, vanities, and much more. Visit heartlandhfh.org/donate-to-restore.html or call 883-3331 to inquire about the items they are currently accepting. Citizens can drop off items or arrange for ReStore staff to pick up your high quality item. Budget conscious shoppers (and store volunteers) are needed as well! The store is situated between Home Depot and Menard's, next to Lone Star Steakhouse.



We missed the Christmas light drive that was coordinated by AmeriCorps and local retail stores. Where can we recycle holiday lights?

Unwanted strings of holiday lights will be accepted during the April HHM & Electronics Waste Drop-off in Waterloo (Page 2) or can be taken to a local scrap metal recycler.

Is there anywhere to recycle Styrofoam in the Cedar Valley?

The City of Cedar Falls received a SWAP grant from the Iowa DNR to purchase a machine that densifies *Styrofoam*, making the material more marketable. *Styrofoam* is only accepted at 3 sites in Cedar Falls: the Main Recycling Site (at E. 15th and State St), the Panther Parkway site, and the Greenhill Village site. Packing peanuts must be bagged. Call 273-8629 for more information.

Our school is sponsoring a 5k Fun Run. Does anyone have recycling containers to collect water bottles at our event?

In addition to several recycling businesses that can bring recycling containers for public events, the solid waste management commission has Event Recycling Equipment that your group can use, for FREE! Maybe you have seen the frames at *Live to 9* or the *Iowa Irish Fest*. Call the Waste Trac Education Team at 266-8722 or visit wastetrac.org/eventrecycling.



We are de-cluttering and came across an old microwave and dehumidifier. Where can we recycle them?

These items are considered appliances and need to be recycled with a certified white goods recycler or with a public works agency. Appliances contain hazardous materials such as refrigerants, mercury-containing devices, and PCB capacitors. Iowa law requires that all discarded appliances be demanufactured by a permitted appliance demanufacturer prior to disposal. To recycle appliances, please call your city public works office or your city hall for their appliance recycling/bulk item pick-up guidelines. Some cities also have special collection days or neighborhood clean up

events. You can also contact the Cedar Falls Transfer Station (273-8629) or the Black Hawk County Landfill (296-2524) for recycling fees.

We plan to reshingle our house in the spring. Is shingle recycling available locally?

An estimated 12 million tons of shingles waste goes to landfills in the United States every year! The City of Cedar Falls is now accepting clean asphalt shingles for recycling. The fee is \$30 per ton for clean shingles (*can include nails and felt/tar paper). Shingles will be accepted at the Transfer Station location (East 15th and State Street). Call 273-8629 for more details about what constitutes a clean load.

*Article updated on 1-29-16.

Asphalt shingle roof replacement can generate waste at rates of 2-5 lbs per square foot of roof area. Rates vary based on the number of layers and the type of shingle.



YOU ARE INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE!

Due to the building renovation project at Hartman Reserve Nature Center this year, the

Waste Trac Education Team has moved!!

Check out the new education center at

1500 Bluff Street in Cedar Falls

Enjoy free cookies, refreshments, and activities during their open house on

Thursday, March 3rd from 3:00 - 6:00 PM



EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS

The Waste Trac Education Team is a partnership between the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission and the Black Hawk County Conservation Board. In addition to providing free landfill tours and educational programs to school classrooms, scouts, youth groups, and adult civic organizations, Waste Trac Educators will also be partnering with several local agencies to provide educational workshops for Cedar Valley residents this spring. We hope you can join us!

Sustainability & Self-reliance Workshop Saturday, February 20 from 10 AM - 4 PM

Interested in homesteading, bread baking, wild edibles, urban solitary beekeeping, home energy efficiency, local foods, composting, sustainability, and self-reliance? Enjoy an all day workshop of concurrent sessions, with keynote speaker Scott Koepke (sponsored by the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission). Scott is the founder and director of *Soilmates*, an organic garden education service for children sponsored by New Pioneer Food Co-op, which covers the subject areas of botany, soil science, local food economics, and life skills. He will be discussing "Old Food For New Food: Building Soil's Organic Matter and Transforming Food Waste Management Infrastructures."



This workshop will take place at the UNI Center for Energy and Environmental Education (UNI CEEE) building and is co-sponsored by Hartman

Reserve Nature Center. For more information, contact HRNC Naturalist Katie Shelton at 277-2187 or by email at katie.hrnc@gmail.com.

*Pre-register online by 4 PM on Monday, February 15th at hartmanreserve.org/sustainability-workshop (via PayPal) or by cash/check/credit at Hartman Reserve Nature Center.

Fee: ***\$25 per person** (pre-paid by 4 PM on Feb 15th; includes lunch) OR **\$30 per person** (after 4 PM on Feb 15th and for walk-ins on the day of the event; lunch is not included).

Community Conservation Workshops

Learn ways to save money while being more energy and resource efficient in and around your home! Speakers will cover topics including home energy efficiency, insulation, proper chemical disposal, the value of composting, soil quality restoration, rain gardens, and water quality improvement funding sources. FREE and open to the public.

Two dates to choose from:

Tuesday, March 8 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

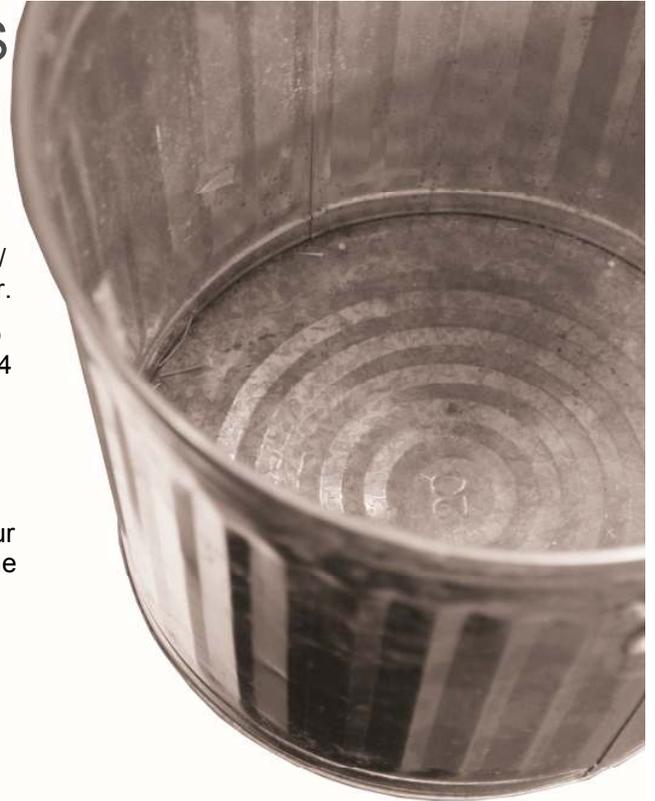
Cedar Falls Community Center
528 Main Street, Cedar Falls

Thursday, March 10 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Waterloo Center for the Arts - Peterson Town Hall Room
225 Commercial Street, Waterloo

[Enter the drawing to win a rain barrel, compost bin, or home efficiency kit at each workshop!](#)

Must be present to win. Refreshments will be served. No registration required!



These workshops are sponsored by the City of Cedar Falls, the City of Waterloo, the Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District - Dry Run Creek Watershed Project, Green Iowa AmeriCorps, and the Waste Trac Education Team. For workshop details, please contact Josh Balk with the Black Hawk SWCD at 296-3262 (ext. 304) or joshua.balk@ia.nacdnet.net.

REQUEST A FREE PROGRAM FOR YOUR GROUP:

Youth Programs:

Black Hawk County Landfill Tours
Waste Relay Race
The Compost ABCs
Garbage Monster
Where Does Your Garbage Go?
Composting with Redworms
Michael Recycle
Water Bottle Tales
What Are Things Made From?

Give a Cheer For Reuse
Redworm Puppet Show
Picnic Activity
Landfill Model
Everything Comes From Something
Throw-away Society Skit
Mini Recycling Center Activity
Cedar Valley Waste Tour
Many more!

Adult Programs:

Live Green
Backyard Composting
Green Shopping
Virtual Landfill Tour
Proper Toxic Material Disposal
Black Hawk County Landfill Tours

* Programs can be adjusted to meet your group's needs.



Lyndsey Anderson



Tammy Turner

To schedule a tour or program, contact the two person Waste Trac Education Team:

Lyndsey (landerson@co.black-hawk.ia.us) or Tammy (tturner@co.black-hawk.ia.us)



WASTE TRAC
Education Team

266-TRAC (8722)
WasteTrac.org
1500 Bluff St,
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Don't miss our Open House on
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