

# WASTE COMMISSION CONNECTION

Winter 2018

BLACK HAWK COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

## Updated Website, Online Newsletter, and a Chance to Win!

Got an item you aren't sure what to do with? Wondering that time the landfill opens? Trying to locate a company to recycle the fluorescent bulbs from your business? To help answer these questions, the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission has recently revamped the *WasteTrac.org* website. It is mobile-friendly and easier to navigate!

Find links to your city's garbage, yard waste, and recycling services. Learn how to recycle items not typically accepted through many city recycling programs (such as shopping bags, Styrofoam™, colored glass, and phone books). Identify other steps you can take to help shrink your waste.

Explore the FAQ list and drop-down menu for managing 70+ materials including: propane tanks, CFLs, electronics, paint, batteries, oil filters, motor oil, appliances, tires, medical sharps, medication, used furniture, and more. Use the new search feature on the home page! Type your item in the area that says "Search Site" and then click on the magnifying glass.

Business owners can utilize the website to manage a wide variety of materials. Find links to agencies that assist with finding markets for waste products and streamlining operations, such as the Iowa Waste Exchange and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

[Contact our outreach educators!](#) Schedule a program or tour with the Waste Trac Education Team. Volunteer at a recycling drop-off event. Reserve portable recycling equipment for your festival, 5K run, school carnival, or party. Check out tons of educational resources and

connect with the Waste Trac Education Team via Facebook, YouTube, and Pinterest.

View our calendar of events to check out Commission meeting dates, landfill holiday closures, drop-off events, medication take-back dates, community shred days, public workshops, and more!

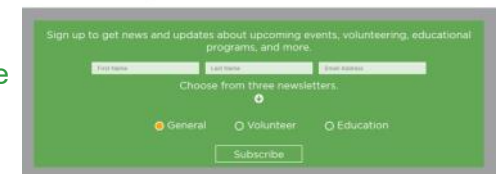
This yearly newspaper insert is a beginning point, but in the future, the Commission will be offering an electronic newsletter to get citizens information in a more timely manner!

Would you like to be informed AND have a chance to win a great prize package? Sign up for our future e-newsletter to enter the drawing. The recycling bin full of products includes a wireless speaker, plates made from milk jugs, recycled office supplies, "American Gothic" recycling pin, & other eco-goodies! The drawing will take place at **4 PM on Monday, April 16th**. The winner will be notified through the email address they provided.

To stay informed (and enter the drawing), please visit *WasteTrac.org* and scroll down to the green box. To sign up for our electronic newsletter(s), please enter your name and email address, select the newsletter(s) you wish to receive, and click "subscribe". Then check your email inbox and click on the link to "confirm your subscription". If our email confirmation does not appear in your inbox within a few minutes, please check your spam folder. Add our newsletter editor's email ([landerson@co.black-hawk.ia.us](mailto:landerson@co.black-hawk.ia.us)) to your address book. We do not share any information or emails with other parties.



Visit [www.WasteTrac.org](http://www.WasteTrac.org) to subscribe to our future E-newsletter(s)...



and you could win this!



**Black Hawk County Landfill**  
1509 E. Washburn Road  
Waterloo, IA 50701  
(319) 296-2524

**Commission Administrator**  
229 E. Park Avenue  
Waterloo, IA 50703  
(319) 234-8115

**Iowa Waste Exchange**  
229 E. Park Avenue  
Waterloo, IA 50703  
(319) 235-0311

**Waste Trac Education Team**  
1500 Bluff Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-8722



# 2018 Household Toxic Materials & Electronics Recycling Drop-off Events

The Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission subsidizes household toxic materials disposal and electronics recycling drop-off events twice per year. BOTH events are open to **ALL Black Hawk County residents** for safe management of approved items from their homes and garages. Each 5-hour event typically draws 700-1,000 vehicles!

The Spring Event is hosted by the City of Waterloo and the Fall Event is hosted by the City of Cedar Falls. Each host city provides the event location. The proper disposal of chemicals and recycling of all electric/electronic items collected are paid for by the Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission. The two-person Waste Trac Education Team recruits volunteers and helps to promote the event.

The next drop-off will be held on Saturday, April 14th from 9 AM - 2 PM at the Waterloo Waste Water Treatment Plant (3505 Easton Ave). Follow the signs from the corner of Hwy 218 and Mitchell Ave. Stay in your vehicle; volunteers will unload your items. Business waste will **NOT** be accepted.

Each vehicle/household may bring two Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) containing devices for free (older-style TVs and computer monitors with the bump in the back, including console and projection TVs). Additional CRTs are \$5 each (with no limit). Exact cash only; no bills larger than \$20.

Flat screen TVs/computer monitors will be accepted at no cost. Many other electronic and electrical items (vacuums, holiday lights, game systems, computer accessories, etc.) will also be recycled for free. Household materials, such as old chemicals, propane tanks, fluorescent light bulbs (compact and tube), old gas, mercury thermometers, and more will be accepted. View the complete list at [WasteTrac.org/spring-drop-off-event/](http://WasteTrac.org/spring-drop-off-event/).

## Household Toxic Materials & Electronics Recycling:

### Spring Drop-off Event

Saturday, April 14th

9 AM – 2 PM

Waterloo Waste Water Treatment Plant

3505 Easton Avenue, Waterloo

[WasteTrac.org/spring-drop-off-event/](http://WasteTrac.org/spring-drop-off-event/)

### Fall Drop-off Event

Saturday, September 22nd

9 AM – 2 PM

Cedar Falls Public Works Complex

2200 Technology Parkway, Cedar Falls

[WasteTrac.org/fall-drop-off-event/](http://WasteTrac.org/fall-drop-off-event/)



After the event, the electric and electronic devices will be safely recycled (and hard drives will be shredded) through Midwest Electronic Recovery (Walford, IA). Household toxic materials will be safely managed through the certified hazardous waste company, Clean Harbors (Des Moines, IA).

**The following items will not be accepted at the event:** paint, appliances (including microwaves, air conditioners, washers, dehumidifiers, water softeners, etc.), tires, motor oil, antifreeze, asbestos, ammunition, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, radioactive materials, lawn mowers, mattresses, or non-hazardous waste. Materials will NOT be accepted from businesses, schools, churches, or non-profits. For tips on managing these (and many other) items, please visit [WasteTrac.org/faqs/](http://WasteTrac.org/faqs/).



## Volunteer at the Commission's Drop-off Event on Saturday, April 14th!



Looking for a fun way to celebrate Earth Day a bit early? With 700-1,000 vehicles participating during this event, volunteers are VITAL to make this event run smoothly. Help unload items from vehicles, direct traffic, survey participants, or shrink-wrap electronics. Roughly 50-60 volunteers (age 18+) are needed. Donuts, lunch, beverages, and all safety equipment will be provided.

Two volunteer shifts are available (from 7:45 AM to 12:15 PM OR from 7:45 AM to 2:00 PM). Interested groups and individuals are asked to contact the Waste Trac Education Team (outreach arm of the Commission) by **4 PM Friday, April 6th**. Let Tammy Turner (Volunteer Coordinator) know which task you prefer by calling 319-266-8722 or by email at [tturner@co.black-hawk.ia.us](mailto:tturner@co.black-hawk.ia.us). More details can be found at [WasteTrac.org/volunteer/](http://WasteTrac.org/volunteer/).



Last fall, volunteers unloaded more than 29 tons of electronics from 955 vehicles!





# Waste Characterization Study: Research... at landfills... in the summer heat?

As you see the garbage truck passing through your neighborhood, have you ever wondered *what is actually in there?* Probably not! You are just thankful that your smelly garbage is going away!

But does your trash really go away? Nope! Although your junk mail, dirty diapers, and moldy strawberries leave *your* home - they are really just relocating to their *new* home. After taking a ride in the garbage truck, they end up at the Black Hawk County Sanitary Landfill to get crushed by the compactor and buried. Trash from Cedar Falls makes a brief layover at the Cedar Falls Transfer Station to get squeezed and squished, before riding in a semi to the landfill.



So what is currently going to the landfill in those trucks? As a citizen, you might not be wondering that... but the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and solid waste agencies across our state are very curious to know!

Every six years, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources hires an engineering firm to conduct a waste characterization study to look at the different kinds of trash, recyclable items, and compostable materials that are being sent to landfills in Iowa.

The 2017 Iowa Statewide Waste Characterization Study was conducted from May through July at 15 locations (landfills and solid waste transfer stations). Materials were sorted and weighed into 9 different material types, which were further sorted into 61 different sub-categories. The study also looked at whether the trash was residential garbage or industrial/commercial waste. For the first time, the Cedar Falls Transfer Station was selected as a study site.

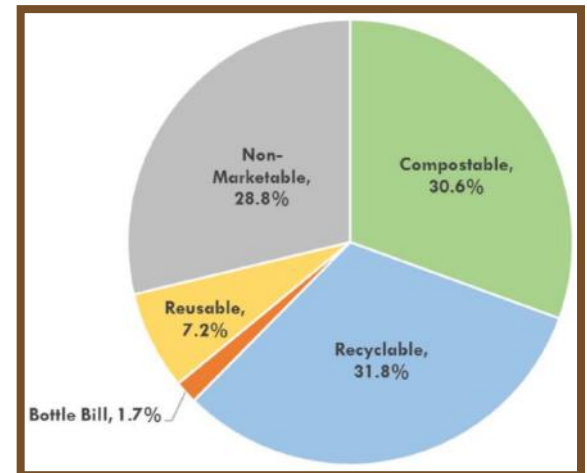
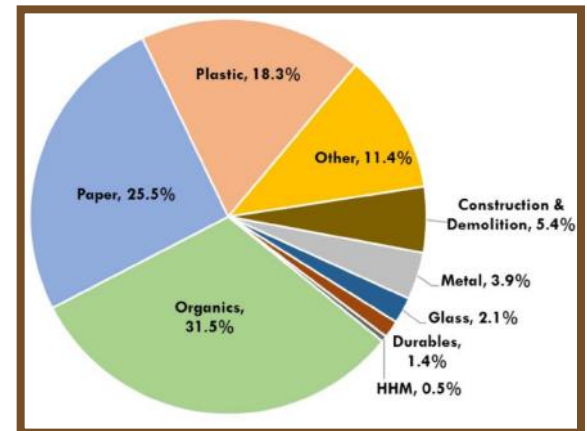
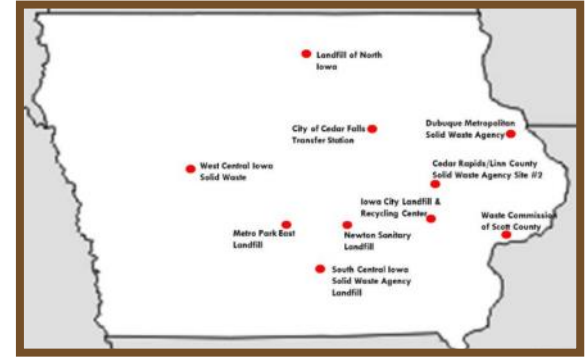
The results are in! The study found that the biggest category of the Iowa waste stream is organics, with food waste (sub-categorized as loose food and packaged food) accounting for 20% of ALL landfilled materials by weight! If this number seems big - it is! This wasted food represents a 50 percent increase from the last study in 2011. The second largest category of landfilled materials is paper at 25.5%. This category includes office paper, newspaper, magazines, cardboard, etc. (much of which is highly recyclable).

Speaking of recycling, for the first time this study also looked at the value of the recyclable commodities that a typical city recycling program accepts and what the material's market value would have been if it had been recycled instead. According to a recent Iowa DNR news release, "Based on regional market prices at the time of the study (October 2017), the value of the common recyclable paper and containers lowans are landfilling is more than \$60 million." Tom Anderson with the Iowa DNR's Land Quality Bureau also commented that "Should these materials be diverted, processed and sold to the manufacturing sector for the production of new products, it's estimated nearly 6,000 jobs could be created."

Along with looking at the impact of the landfilled recyclables, the Iowa DNR also categorized whether other items were compostable, reusable, or redeemable through Iowa's existing Bottle Bill. In all, over 70% of the materials landfilled during this study could have been diverted. This information may potentially spark ideas for innovative new businesses, save natural resources, *and* lengthen the life of the landfills in our state.



Interested in delving deeper into this study? The Black Hawk County Solid Waste Management Commission's website has a direct link to the 119 page PDF of the Iowa DNR's complete study at [WasteTrac.org/rules-regulations-and-policy/](http://WasteTrac.org/rules-regulations-and-policy/).





## Schedule a Free Program with the Waste Trac Education Team!

The Solid Waste Management Commission strives to educate the citizens of Black Hawk County about the connection between the choices people make in their daily lives and the impact of those choices on our environment.

Every landfill around the state provides educational outreach to their citizens. Some have their own education staff on-site, some partner with local colleges, and some partner with county conservation boards to help their residents to reduce the amount and toxicity of materials entering their local landfills.

The Waste Trac Education Team is a partnership between the Commission and the Black Hawk County Conservation Board. Although they are located in Cedar Falls, they provide free outreach throughout Black Hawk County. The Commission also partners with the City of Cedar Falls to provide office and activity space for the team at 1500 Bluff Street (behind the Cedar Falls Transfer Station and Recycling Center).



Tammy  
Turner



Lyndsey  
Anderson

The Waste Trac Education Team provides solid waste related educational programs and tours for youth, adults, and the general public in Black Hawk County at no charge. In 2017, they provided 337 presentations and events for 8,782 participants. Some topics covered include: garbage, recycling, composting, repurposing, vermicomposting, conservation of natural resources, and more!

Educational programs can happen at many different locations:

- During a visit to the Waste Trac Education Center
- Through outreach activities at your school or civic/youth group's meeting location
- At libraries, community centers, parks, and churches
- During your field trip with Hartman Reserve Nature Center
- On walking tours at the Black Hawk County Sanitary Landfill or the Cedar Falls Transfer Station. \*Landfill tours can be scheduled for groups within the landfill's service area.

Check out the Waste Trac Education Team on social media for fun tips, program photos, and recycling event totals. Watch playlists with 100+ high quality videos about recycling and conservation. View their Pinterest Board for neat reuse craft ideas.



### Free Programs for PreK-Adult Learners in Black Hawk County!

#### Youth Programs:

Waste Relay Race  
Garbage Monster  
Where Does Your Garbage Go?  
Composting with Redworms  
Michael Recycle  
Litter Red Riding Hood  
Water Bottle Tales

What Are Things Made From?  
Give a Cheer For Reuse  
Redworm Puppet Show  
Life in the Compost Bin Skit  
Landfill Model  
Picnic Activity  
Throw-away Society Skit  
Mini Recycling Center Activity

#### Tours for Youth and Adults

(Can be scheduled April-Oct only)  
Black Hawk County Landfill  
Cedar Falls Recycling Center

\*More programs listed online at  
[WasteTrac.org/programs-tours/](http://WasteTrac.org/programs-tours/)

#### Adult Programs:

Backyard Composting  
Vermicomposting  
Green Shopping  
Landfill PowerPoint  
Proper Toxic Material Disposal  
Live Green

All presentations (including tours) can be adjusted to meet your individual group's interests.

To schedule a program or tour, contact one of the educators at 319-266-8722 or via email:

Tammy ([tturner@co.black-hawk.ia.us](mailto:tturner@co.black-hawk.ia.us)) or Lyndsey ([landerson@co.black-hawk.ia.us](mailto:landerson@co.black-hawk.ia.us))

