

RECYCLING SURVEY

State Name: Iowa

Agency Name: Department of Natural Resources

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1. Please indicate whether recycling of household or residential recyclables is mandatory, voluntary or perhaps both (mandatory for some materials and voluntary for others) in your state.

Determined on a local level. Most communities have a voluntary program, some have a mandatory program.

2. Is there a State Law(s) that mandates, encourages, or otherwise facilitates the recycling system or programs in your state and what is the reference for that section of your state code?

Yes. Iowa Code 455B.306.5

"5. The comprehensive plan shall provide details of a local recycling program which shall contain a methodology for meeting the state volume reduction goal pursuant to section 455D.3, and a methodology for implementing a program of separation of wastes including but not limited to glass, plastic, paper, and metal. "

3. Does your state law (or other directive) mandate, encourage or otherwise specify a state goal for the rate of recycling or diversion (e.g. percentage of overall waste stream, etc.) If so, what is the statutory reference?

455D.3 Goals for waste stream reduction -- procedures – reductions and increases in fees.

"1. Year 1994 and 2000 goals. The goal of the state is to reduce the amount of materials in the waste stream, existing as of July 1, 1988, twenty-five percent by July 1, 1994, and fifty percent by July 1, 2000, through the practice of waste volume reduction at the source and through recycling. For the purposes of this section, "waste stream" means the disposal of solid waste as "solid waste" is defined in section 455B.301."

4. Please indicate how your state measures recycling rates? (Are there reporting requirements? who reports and how frequently?) What wastes are captured in the measurement of your recycling/diversion rate? (e.g. residential garbage? yard waste? commercial and industrial wastes? Waste tires? white goods? automobiles? etc?).

Iowa does not measure recycling rates. Iowa measures landfill diversion by comparing landfilled tonnage data with baseline landfill data from 1988 with adjustments made on a variety of factors such as population and manufacturing changes in an area.

5. What association does commercial, institutional, and industrial recycling have with the household or residential recycling in your state? Are recycling activities from these sectors factored into your overall state recycling rate?

Very little association between residential and commercial recycling. Commercial recycling is factored in in that that material does not end up in the landfill show is credited towards diversion as long as the diversion started after 1988.

6. What is your most recently measured rate of recycling or diversion for your state? (Please indicate the time frame for this measurement. e.g. calendar year, fiscal year, etc.)

32.5% is diversion rate using FY 2003 data, with the exception of the data from two planning areas where older data is being used.

7. What are the most commonly employed systems in your state for collecting residential recyclables. Are different sized communities required or encouraged to meet a certain standard of recycling services?

Approximately 2/3 of communities use curbside, the rest use drop-off. The only recycling requirements are discussed in question 2 above. All communities, regardless of size, have the same requirement.

8. Do you have rural communities in your state that have developed and are maintaining successful residential recycling programs? What type of "system" are these successful communities employing?

Curbside in combination with unit-based pricing for trash disposal services.

9. What incentives (grants, loans, tax incentives, etc.) are offered in your state for recycling and to whom are these incentives available? (state government, local governments, private companies, universities and institutions, etc.) How are these grants or loans funded?

Communities are eligible to apply for forgivable, zero-interest and low-interest loans from the department's Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP). SWAP is funded via a solid waste tonnage fee.

10. Does your agency or state have a "recycling program," In what agency is the program housed and how many full time employees are dedicated to recycling program activities?

Yes, there is a recycling program for state agencies. One FTE coordinates and is housed in the Department of Administrative Services.