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In Iowa, food waste comprised 10.6% of the total material entering Iowa landfills in 2005; by 2011, that number had risen to 13.3% (IDNR, 2011). Food waste accounts for an estimated 13% of US greenhouse gas emissions which are associated with every level of food “production, processing, transport, and disposal” (EPA, 2009). The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has targeted food waste and many entities in Iowa have worked to reduce food waste upstream and increase options downstream for donating, animal feeding and composting. Support and funding has come from local, state and federal entities. Efforts include:

- Residential curbside food waste collection: Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, North Liberty and University Heights offer the service, either combined with a yard waste collection program or by subscription.
- Residential food waste reduction education and outreach. The City of Iowa City participated in the EPA's *Food: Too Good to Waste* pilot program in 2014 and began rolling out the program to all residents in March 2015.
- Commercial food rescue efforts: Table to Table, an Iowa City non-profit organization, has rescued food from local grocery stores, restaurants and distribution centers since 1996. The food is distributed to local agencies that serve the hungry, homeless and at-risk populations.
- Commercial organics collection efforts: Several waste haulers in Iowa offer organics collection programs, predominately in the more heavily populated eastern portion of the state. The haulers primarily utilize five public compost facilities that have been permitted to accept food waste (Cedar Rapids/Linn County Solid Waste Agency, Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency, Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center, Metro Park East and Metro Compost Center) and two private compost facilities (Chamness Technology and Midwest Organic Solutions).
- The Iowa Waste Reduction Center at the University of Northern Iowa has become the state's primary resource for food waste reduction and composting information. With funding assistance from the IDNR's Solid Waste Alternative Program and US Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service, IWRC has compiled resources for food waste generators, including an outlet map, regulations, case studies, vendors and statistics.
- The Iowa Recycling Association is a conduit for information, networking opportunities and partnerships in Iowa for all recycling initiatives.

#### National Sustainable Materials Management Plan Recommendations:

- Support upstream food waste reduction efforts such as EPA's *Food: Too Good to Waste* and the Food Recovery Challenge through increased public awareness and action.
- Support funding opportunities for downstream solutions such as Iowa's 2015 House File 355 bill, the Food Waste Pilot Project, which appropriates \$200,000 to the IDNR for providing grants for food waste landfill diversion demonstration projects.
- Businesses, government and consumers should help remove inefficiencies in the food system, including “changes in supply-chain operation, enhanced market incentives, increased public awareness and adjustments in consumer behavior” (NRDC, 2012).

EPA, 2009. “Opportunities to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions through Materials and Land Management Practices.” September 2009. Page 13.  
[http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/ghg\\_land\\_and\\_materials\\_management.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/ghg_land_and_materials_management.pdf). Accessed 3-18-15.

IDNR, 2011. Iowa Department of Natural Resources Waste Characterization Studies, 2005 and 2011.  
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NRDC, 2012. “Wasted: How America is Losing up to 40 Percent of Its Food from Farm to Fork to Landfill.” National Resources Defense Council. <http://www.nrdc.org/food/files/wasted-food-ip.pdf>. Accessed 3-18-15.