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Iowa Waste Reduction Center Newsletter, November 2021

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Iowa Waste Reduction Center



Iowa Green Brewery Certification Celebrates Five Years

Five years ago this November, the idea for the Iowa Green Brewery Project (IGBC) had just begun developing. The Iowa Waste Reduction Center was looking to continue providing free environmental assistance to Iowa businesses, but on a more specific level. The craft beer industry was a natural fit. Resource intensive, rapidly expanding statewide, and industry interest in environmental stewardship, the IGBC started to gain traction.

“Five years ago, this was little more than an idea. Our hope with this certification program is to give brewers an opportunity to share their environmental and sustainable efforts with their customers,” says Joe Bolick, Director of the IWRC.

The first year of the IGBC program was spent working closely with four breweries throughout three counties in Iowa to develop a program that would provide benefit and make an impact on Iowa craft breweries. We surveyed brewery owners and personnel to identify areas of the brewery and operation procedures that were making a sizable impact on both the environment and a brewery’s bottom line. The 4 areas identified through the exploratory phase are what we focus our assistance around today. These include Environmental Management, Energy Efficiency, Water Quality/Conservation, and Resource/Solid Waste Management.

Since officially launching the certification program four years ago, more than 40 of Iowa’s craft breweries have received assistance from this program, with just over 30 becoming officially certified. The willingness of brewery personnel to adopt these sustainability initiatives over the past five years has been incredibly encouraging. Many breweries have wanted to make a difference in how they operate and conduct business to represent their true commitment to sustainability.

We are very honored to say that the IGBC program has received recognition through numerous awards since its inception. In 2017, the program was awarded the “Commitment to Iowa” award from the Iowa Recycling Association. Most recently, in September of 2021, The IGBC was awarded the Environmental Protection Agency’s Region 7 Pollution Prevention (P2) award. These awards have exemplified the growth and impact that this program has achieved in the last 5 years.

The Iowa Green Brewery Certification is not stopping at the five-year mark! We are always

looking to continue working with the great craft breweries of Iowa. If an Iowa brewery that you know is looking to make a positive, sustainable impact, please contact us at iwrc@uni.edu and visit our website at iwrc.uni.edu/green-brewery.

We extend our gratitude to all craft breweries in Iowa that are focusing on environmental stewardship, as well as the consumers who choose to support these sustainable Iowa businesses.

Cheers to another 5 years!



National Zero Waste Conference | December 8-9 | [Virtual](#)

Iowa Strategic Goals Program Webinar | November 30 | [Virtual](#)

ISGP Webinar:

Agency Environmental Priorities, Sustainable Materials Management & the New Energy Loan Program

Compliance requirements can often seem overwhelming and confusing, and rule changes can catch you completely off guard. Wouldn't it be nice if regulators would provide hints and tips to help you better understand what is required of your business? Well, this webinar provides just that opportunity. Sign up for the ISGP webinar happening this November 30, 2021 to learn from experts in the field of Agency Environmental Priorities, Sustainable Materials Management & the Energy Loan Program. Register [here](#) today!

Welcome Jordan, Jason & Andrew!

Recently the IWRC has hired two new full-time staff members and one intern to the team! Join us in welcoming them all!

Jordan Evans

Jordan has been hired on as the IWRC's Environmental Program Assistant, so he will be assisting other IWRC staff with their various programs, including food waste, painter training, air quality, and even more! Jordan is a UNI alumni who graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Earth Science. In the past, he has also done environmental and conservation work with the Green Iowa AmeriCorps in Cedar Falls.



"I'm incredibly excited to be working here at the IWRC. I think it will be a great opportunity for me to learn and gain more experience as an environmental professional," Jordan said. "The people here seem great and I'm looking forward to helping better the environment and our communities through our work."

Outside of work Jordan enjoys kayaking, hiking, disc golf, and woodworking.

Jason Clay

Jason has been hired on as the IWRC's Environmental Programs Assistant as well, and currently he is working on IWRC's Community Waste Diversion Project, which focuses on generating training materials and learning opportunities for rural disadvantaged communities. Jason has a BA in Anthropology/International Studies and a MA in Environmental Studies/Social Ecology. In the past, he has worked with riparian conservation, community gardening & organic farming, sustainable community development, as well as food & water security.



"I'm very excited to be part of the IWRC team," Jason said. "I'm excited to contribute to our efforts towards supporting communities, businesses and other regional stakeholders to reduce waste, improve energy efficiency and offer educational opportunities and training on emerging environmental concerns."

Outside of work Jason enjoys mountain biking through the woods, bird-watching, traditional wood carving, camping & hiking, kayaking and any opportunity to be outdoors.

Andrew Kawano

Andrew has been hired on as the IWRC's Green Brewery Project Intern. He will be assisting with the Iowa Green Brewery Certification Program and helping with breweries becoming certified through that process. Andrew is currently a UNI student studying Marketing, Economics and Sustainability.

"I like sustainability practices and I like beer," Andrew said. "The opportunity to combine the two of those things is an absolute dream."

Outside of work Andrew enjoys hiking, longboarding, gaming, cooking, eating and lifting.

We are excited to have added all of them to the team!



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