

11-2020

## Iowa Waste Reduction Center Newsletter, November 2020

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### Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa. Iowa Waste Reduction Center., "Iowa Waste Reduction Center Newsletter, November 2020" (2020). *Iowa Waste Reduction Center Newsletter*. 47.

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**November 2020**



## **Giving Thanks in 2020**

It's that time of year where we get all sappy and shower praise over those that are important to us, but it just doesn't feel sappy or corny this year. These last eight months have been such a whirlwind of chaos and uncertainty that taking time to acknowledge those that have helped us along the way feels like not nearly enough...but it's definitely a start.

First off, I want to personally express my endless gratitude and appreciation to the entire IWRC team. This year has been an absolute rollercoaster! We've been through so many swings in how we go about our daily routines, yet every single one of you has rolled with every punch thrown at us. To be able to continue to grow and evolve our programming while still providing the level of service our clients have come to expect is a testament to how great of a team we have here at the IWRC. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

We also want to thank each and every one of our clients. You have been learning and adjusting through these times as well. Your willingness to work with us to figure out the best and safest solutions to fit your needs has been incredible. Witnessing, firsthand, the resilience and tenacity of Iowa small businesses has been truly inspiring and motivates us to continue to provide you with the best service possible.

To all of our partner organizations around the state and country...you are all amazing. There's far too many of you to list here, but we have learned so much from you all. Every single one of us has had to adapt our work lives in some way, and having partners out there that are willing to share their successes (and failures) is such a benefit. We hope you've been able to glean a thing or two from us as well.

Last and certainly not least, we want to express our thanks to everyone at the University of Northern Iowa, from our sister organizations in Business & Community Services all the way up to the highest levels of the UNI administration. Specifically, we want to thank Randy Pilkington (Executive Director, Business & Community Services), Leslie Wilson (Dean, UNI College of Business), Andrew Morse (Assistant to the President, Board and Governmental Relations) and President Mark Nook. Your support and encouragement means the world to us.

We hope you all have a safe and healthy Thanksgiving and remember to try and minimize your food waste. Thank you!

Happy Thanksgiving!



Joe Bolick, Director IWRC

## **STAR4D Program Continues to Push Forward in Face of COVID-19**

Highlighting the importance of corrosion prevention, proper coating application and efficient production, STAR4D (the IWRC's award-winning military painter certification program) is a valuable resource for painter education. The IWRC also provides painter training to private industries as well, with curriculum meeting requirements of the EPA's National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP 40 CFR Part 63, Subpart HHHHHH).

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University of Northern Iowa made the responsible decision to suspend travel of STAR4D instructors to all off-site DoD and private facilities, as well as temporarily suspend training classes scheduled to be held at IWRC's facility in Cedar Falls.

During this time, IWRC staff took the opportunity to further develop the current painter training curriculum (while working from home and meeting via Zoom). Focusing on different spray systems, updated coatings and new spray techniques, STAR4D training is now more comprehensive than ever before. IWRC staff have also been hard at work updating the Online Painter Training course that allows painters to gain the necessary education to be in compliance with EPA 6H NESHAP regulations virtually. Look for this online course to be available in early 2021.

The IWRC and University of Northern Iowa are committed to ensuring a high quality learning and working experience while protecting the health and safety of all students, faculty, staff, community and clients. Because of this, the IWRC has developed a COVID-19 response plan that allows STAR4D to safely perform tasks and training that are outlined in current DoD and client contracts. Complying with guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), the IWRC has outlined travel policies and protocols, a training plan for on-site trainings at the Cedar Falls facility, and guidelines for safe use of VirtualPaint 2D and 3D training tools.

To read the IWRC's comprehensive COVID-19 Response, click [here](#).

The IWRC aims to provide industry-leading training and assistance while maintaining the highest level of safety in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic.



EPA Pollution Prevention Webinar  
December 10 | [Webinar](#)

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## IWRC NEWS

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### Iowa DNR Announces Food Storage Capacity Grant

The Iowa DNR has announced they will be offering a second wave of applications for a Food Storage Capacity Grant to help address the issue of food waste. Food waste impacts not only Iowa, but the country, and has a variety of negative impacts on the environment and sustainability. This grant helps to address those negative impacts and also help organizations grow their positive impact in food waste reduction.

The grant is set to help the efforts to expand storage and cold storage of donated food. The grant is open to food banks, pantries, and non-profit organizations that are receiving food donations for distribution.

To learn more about this grant and how to apply check out the DNR's webpage on [Waste Planning and Recycling](#). Application materials and additional information can be found there. This grant will be accepting applications on an ongoing basis until funds have been awarded.

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## INDUSTRY NEWS

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#### | Sustainability |

[Corporate Sustainability Leadership During a Pandemic](#)  
(GreenBiz)

#### | Energy |

[How Utah Cities are Pursuing 100% Renewable Energy](#)  
(GreenBiz)

#### | Food Waste |

[The Enormous Cost of Food Waste and What Can Be Done About it](#)  
(UNI College of Business, p.30)

#### | Recycling |

[An In-Depth Look at the EPA's National Recycling Strategy](#)  
(Waste 360)



This material is based upon work supported under a grant by the Rural Utilities Service United States Department of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in the material are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Rural Utilities Service.

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