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Iowa Waste Reduction Center Newsletter, April 2020

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April 2020

Iowa Waste Reduction Center



University of Northern Iowa

COVID-19 : The Perspective from a UNI Student

Without question, COVID-19 is having an impact on every single one of us and life is going to look different on the other side. One very sad reality that has hit the IWRC during this pandemic is that we won't see Abby Palmer around the office anymore.

Abby has been a student intern with us since her very first semester at UNI, believe it or not, she actually has more seniority than three of our full time staff members. She has become an integral part of our team and the idea of not seeing her around the office when we come back is hard to fathom.

The full story is that Abby has accepted an incredible summer internship opportunity that extends into next school year, so she was going to be finishing her time at the IWRC in May...plenty of time for us to say a proper goodbye. Little did we know that Friday, March 13th (the day before Spring Break) would be the last day she'd be at her desk.

It's easy to get caught up in our own lives in these times, we should step back and recognize how it's impacting others. I've asked Abby a few questions so she can tell us all the story of how COVID-19 is impacting her personally, at work and with her schooling.

We at the IWRC want to extend our sincerest gratitude for everything Abby has done for us. While we know she will always stay in touch and be a part of the IWRC family forever, she will be deeply missed.

Thank you Abby and best of luck on all of your future endeavors...you will do great things!

Joe Bolick, Director
Iowa Waste Reduction Center

To read the full article on how COVID-19 is affecting Abby, click [here](#).

IWRC NEWS

IWRC Energy Assistance Program Web Page Now Available

The IWRC energy assistance program has officially implemented its two-year pilot program called "The Iowa Energy Efficiency Assistance Program for Rural Small Businesses." This project will be assisting rural Iowa small businesses in reducing energy consumption through two objectives: providing free on-site energy efficiency audits and developing a comprehensive education program.

The program's educational [web page](#) has now gone live on the IWRC website and is available for Iowa rural small business, as well as others, to utilize.

For more information on this program please go to iwrc.org or contact the IWRC at 1-800-422-3109.

More Added to COVID-19 Resource Page

The IWRC's response page for COVID-19 (<https://iwrc.uni.edu/covid>) links to a lot of helpful resources and services for anyone who is in need of their use.

We have included a map of Iowa's food banks in case you are in need of some assistance, helpful tips and tricks for minimizing food waste while social distancing, and a bunch of educational activities over the topics of food waste, composting, and energy efficiency for children to utilize.

Please reach out to any of our programs if we can assist. If we can't help you, we will try to find someone who can. As always, be safe, stay healthy and we will all get through this together!

Minor Source Emissions Inventory Assistance - New Deadline

MSEI season is still underway. Facilities in the central third of Iowa, as well as portable plants, must submit their 2019 MSEI now by **June 15, 2020**. The IWRC's Iowa Air Emissions Assistance Program has many resources available to help including tutorials, calculators, checklists, and even one-on-one training sessions at no charge for Iowa businesses with less than 100 employees. For more information, visit <https://iwrc.uni.edu/msei>



[International Compost Awareness Week](#)

May 3-9, 2020

[Air Quality Awareness Week](#)

May 4-8, 2020

[American Craft Beer Week](#)

May 11-17, 2020

INDUSTRY NEWS

| Food Waste |

[Food Waste and Food Insecurity Rising Amid Coronavirus Panic](#) (Waste Advantage Magazine)

| Packaging |

[The pandemic is changing the dialogue about reusable packaging](#) (Green Biz)

| Air Quality |

[Air Quality permits under review](#) (Iowa DNR)

| Emissions |

[Coronavirus could trigger 'largest ever annual fall in CO2' in 2020](#) (GreenBiz)



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