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## Iowa Waste Reduction Center Newsletter, March 2020

University of Northern Iowa. Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

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March 2020



## COVID-19 Resource Page Available

With all that is going on right now, we at the IWRC have decided to put together a webpage in response to COVID-19 (<https://iwrc.uni.edu/covid>). This page links to helpful resources and services for businesses out there as well as points you to all of Iowa's food banks in case you are in need of some assistance. Since most families will be eating at home for a while, we anticipate there will be a major spike in the amount of residential food waste going to landfills across the nation. With that in mind, we've included some tips and tricks on this page for minimizing food waste while social distancing. We've also included a few activities for children to utilize during this time and will be adding several other new ones within the weeks to come.

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!



### Earth Day

April 22, 2020

### Air Quality Awareness Week

May 4-8, 2020

### Big Grove Brewery & Taproom Goes Platinum

The Iowa Green Brewery Certification is excited to congratulate Big Grove Brewery & Taproom, out of Iowa City, IA, on receiving a Platinum certification! This month, Big Grove surpassed its gold-level certification at their Iowa City location by furthering their environmental efforts!

Read the full article over their Platinum certification at <https://iwrc.uni.edu/big-grove-goes-platinum>

### IWRC Visits Holmes Junior High For Food Waste Audit

This month, the IWRC had the honor of visiting Holmes Junior High in Cedar Falls, IA. IWRC specialists helped the students and staff conduct a waste sort to measure the school's food and beverage waste as well as recyclables. The support was AMAZING from Green Iowa AmeriCorps' Gabby Crooks, Principal Rosburg, and many student volunteers!



### New IWRC Energy Assistance Program Underway

The IWRC energy assistance program is implementing a two-year pilot program called "The Iowa Energy Efficiency Assistance Program for Rural Small Businesses." This project will assist 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 IWRC is working with its various trade association partners to directly communicate this new project and its assistance opportunities to small businesses all over Iowa. For more information on this program please go to [iwrc.org](http://iwrc.org) or contact the IWRC at 1-800-422-3109.

### Minor Source Emissions Inventory Assistance

MSEI season is underway. Facilities in the central third of Iowa, as well as portable plants, must submit their 2019 MSEI by **May 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>

## INDUSTRY NEWS

### | Energy Efficiency |

[Corporate renewable energy in the age of COVID-19](#) (Green Biz)

### | Food Waste |

[Food waste impacts emerging as coronavirus shifts life from commercial to residential](#) (Waste Dive)

### | Hazardous Waste |

[Long-term Care Providers Adjust to Hazardous Pharmaceutical Waste Rule](#) (Waste 360)

### | Plastic Waste |

[COVID-19's Impact on Plastic Waste Reduction](#) (Waste 360)



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