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Iowa Waste Reduction Center Newsletter, December 2014

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December 2014

IWRC Newsletter

Welcome to the final IWRC newsletter of 2014!

It's been another exciting year for us here. Our staple programs of providing environmental assistance and painter training are continuing to do just that. Plus, we completed the [Iowa Construction and Demolition Waste Reduction Project](#) and a [Compressed Air Leak Management Project](#).



In our continuing fight against food waste, we initiated two more projects. One of which will result in the first set of comprehensive statewide data that quantifies food waste generation and disposal throughout industrial, commercial and institutional sectors in Iowa!

As always, we'll be sharing updates about all of our projects as we venture into 2015! From our staff to you, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Features

Nickey Receives Award from UNI



Every year, the University of Northern Iowa, specifically the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, the UNI Foundation, and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, honor and recognize faculty and staff that seek, obtain and manage external funding. This year, we were fortunate to have our Associate Director, Dan Nickey recognized. [Read More](#)

New Food Waste Reduction Resources

As we said above, the fight against food waste continues! There are a variety of steps that can be taken to reduce food waste at home - from something as simple as eating leftovers to composting what you don't eat. The IWRC is working on developing resources and information to help - visit [Residential Food Waste Reduction](#) to learn more and download the Residential Composting Toolkit.



Painter Training Customized with VirtualPaint



VirtualPaint training comes in all shapes and sizes. It typically follows a similar format, but is often customized for the client. Recent training at BNSF focused on airless spray technique, while at Winnebago the primary focus was regulatory compliance. On a larger scale, Stoughton Trailers has gone beyond basic training and incorporated VirtualPaint into their training program at three facilities in WI. Read about these and more in [VirtualPaint News](#).

Industry News

| Spray Painting |

[Spray Gun Adjustments Impact Product Quality](#)

Fan adjustment, atomization, air pressure adjustment and more - spray gun set up and adjustment are crucial to overall product quality. (Auto Body Repair Network)

| Food Waste |

[Combating Wasted Food: Good for the Environment, Good for Your Bottom Line](#)

Businesses from all industries - from restaurants to grocery stores to hotels and more - can see more than just environmental benefits from reducing food waste. (U.S. EPA)

| Packaging / Waste Reduction |

[Thinking outside the box: unwrapping a massive packaging problem](#)

With containers and packing accounting for 30% of solid waste generated in the U.S. in 2012, companies and entrepreneurs are continuing to find new ways to reduce this waste. (The Guardian)

| Small Business |

[2015 Small Business Week Awards](#)

The work of our nation's small business deserve to be recognized. Nominations for these awards will be accepted through January 5. (U.S. Small Business Administration)

| End of the Year |

[Best of 2014](#)

Sustainable Brands has compiled all the top sustainability news from the year.
(Sustainable Brands)

| Start of a New Year |

[Top 2015 Sustainability Strategies Revealed](#)

According to a new survey, cost will continue to be the main driver in making sustainability decisions. (Environmental Leader)