

10-2023

Iowa Waste Reduction Center Newsletter, October 2023

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October 2023



Mission: To enhance business and organizational efficiency through quality and innovative environmental programming across Iowa and throughout the country.

Hello, loyal IWRC newsletter subscribers! This month is full of unique and current news that we hope you enjoy. To make sure our monthly emails don't get lost, make sure to add iowaenviroassist@gmail.com to your contacts. Know of someone who should be receiving our newsletter? Feel free to forward this email on and encourage them to [subscribe](#).

Covered in this issue:

- EPA's Wasted Food Scale replaces the Food Recovery Hierarchy
- Vermicomposting workshop goes to Dayton, IA
- Iowa Strategic Goals Workshop
- The New Fashion Police: Fashion as a point of conversation
- Blog: The Next Generation of Waste Reduction



Food, Beverage & Organics

EPA's Wasted Food Scale replaces the Food Recovery Hierarchy



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has released two new reports that shed light on the significant [methane emissions](#) resulting from food waste in landfills and the need for [updated strategies](#) in managing wasted food. These reports reveal that over one-third of the food produced in the United States is never consumed, resulting in extensive resource wastage and the generation of a harmful greenhouse gas methane in landfills. To address this issue, the EPA is introducing an updated Food Recovery Hierarchy, now known as the [Wasted Food Scale](#), the first update since the 1990s, highlighting the necessity of reducing food waste and utilizing more environmentally sustainable disposal methods to minimize its adverse environmental impacts.

[Learn More](#)

Vermicomposting Workshop Goes to Dayton, IA



On Wednesday, October 11th, the IWRC's Jason Clay met with students attending the [Dayton Public Library](#) afterschool program to talk about recycling, food waste and composting. The students learned about composting and vermicomposting as a way to recycle food scraps and got hands-on experience preparing a new worm bin. They even had the opportunity to harvest their own worm castings to take home.

A special thanks to Dayton Library Director Courtney Sogard for the invitation to talk compost with Dayton students!

If you or your organization are interested in hosting a similar workshop, contact the IWRC at 319.273.8905 or iwrc@uni.edu.

[Contact Us](#)



Environmental Assistance

Iowa Strategic Goals Workshop: RCRA Inspections, Industrial Stormwater, & Federal Fuel Standards



Join us for an Iowa Strategic Goals Program [workshop](#) on November 9th at the [West Des Moines Marriott](#) in Des Moines from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Registration is \$60

This workshop will feature:

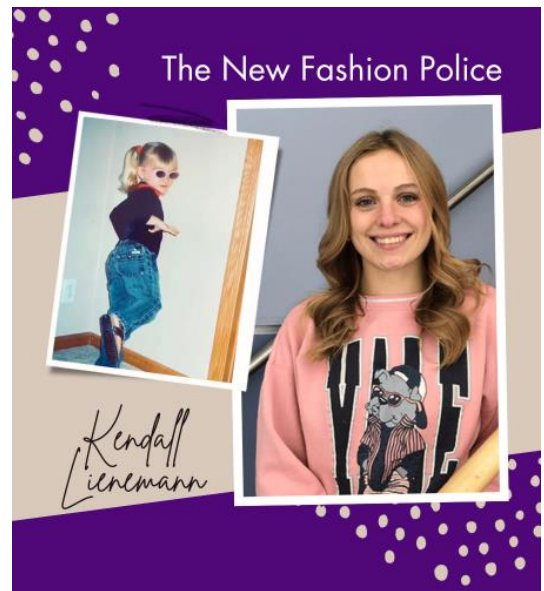
- RCRA Inspections & Updates
- Industrial Stormwater: Overview & Updates
- Federal Fuel Standards

This workshop will provide plenty of time for open discussion/Q&A, so take advantage of this opportunity to learn, network, and share ideas! More information about the workshop can be found at [P2 Workshops](#).

[Register Today!](#)

Announcements

The New Fashion Police: Fashion as a Point of Conversation



In an inspiring quest for a sustainable tomorrow, IWRC Environmental Intern, Kendall Lienemann, delves into the challenges of combating fashion waste at UNI. Engaging with campus staff and community leaders, she explores the complexities of establishing a mini thrift store and/or clothing closet for students in need. Conversations with key figures like Eric O'Brien, UNI's Sustainability Coordinator, reveal ongoing initiatives to divert clothes from landfills, emphasizing the importance of education about environmental impacts.

This gripping narrative promises more insights from students in the next chapter, offering a compelling glimpse into the future of fashion sustainability. Read on to discover the noble journey toward a greener campus community.

[Read Part II](#)

The Next Generation of Waste Reduction



The IWRC is just one of seven programs housed within the UNI Business and Community Services (BCS) building. The various departments housed within its walls provide numerous services to businesses in Iowa, and oftentimes they get to collaborate in some pretty unique ways. BCS Marketing Intern, Kate McAlister, spent time with each of our interns this summer to discuss their participation with the IWRC and published an insightful article showcasing the individual projects each IWRC intern was actively involved in.

Interns come and interns go, but the lasting impact they can have on businesses is worth celebrating. Give McAlister's story a read, and celebrate the hard work our student interns have accomplished in their short time with us!

[Read More](#)

Industry News

| PFAS |

[Update on U.S. EPA's Proposed Rule to Designate PFOA and PFOS as Hazardous Substances Under CERCLA \(JDSUPRA\)](#)

| Energy Efficiency |

[How Energy Efficiency Can Help Us Achieve Net Zero \(Greener Ideal\)](#)

| Sustainability |

[The Sustainability Wake-Up Call For Businesses \(Forbes\)](#)

| Recycling |

[Scientists close the cycle on recycling mixed plastics \(PHYS.org\)](#)

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