

**DEKALB COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
TWENTY-YEAR UPDATE**



**DEKALB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
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**DEKALB COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
TWENTY-YEAR PLAN STATUS and RECOMMENDATIONS**

Plan Adoption Date: April 19, 1995

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

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5 Year Plan Update: April 19, 2000  
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15 Year Plan Update: July 21, 2010  
20 Year Plan Update: July 15, 2015

**DEKALB COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
TWENTY-YEAR PLAN STATUS and RECOMMENDATIONS**

In 1995, DeKalb County adopted the DeKalb County Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan) for DeKalb County in accordance with the Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act of 1988. The Act requires that implementation tasks in the Plan be reviewed and updated every five years.

On October 16, 2013, the DeKalb County Board adopted a resolution to create the Zero Waste Task Force, which explored adopting Zero Waste as a guiding principle for DeKalb County's Solid Waste Management Plan. The ZWTF met from November 7, 2013 to July 1, 2014 and recommended Zero Waste as a guiding principle in order to divert material from landfills into productive uses and reduce environmental impacts. The DeKalb County Board adopted Zero Waste as a guiding principle within the DeKalb County Solid Waste Management Plan on September 17, 2014.

As a result of the Task Force three main priorities emerged:

1. Expand Opportunities for Rural Recycling
2. Commercial/Multi-Unit Housing Recycling
3. Harvesting Organics

DeKalb County' recycling rate of 49% is greater than what is mandated by the Solid Waste and Recycling Act, at only 25%. In 2014 DeKalb County generated 4.40 pounds of solid waste per person per day that was landfilled. With Zero Waste as a guiding principle, DeKalb County residents can reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill. The new goal is 2.14 pounds per person per day, by 2034.

The following is a list of the implementation tasks that were included in the DeKalb County Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan) adopted in 1995. The tasks are grouped into two categories: Waste Reduction (education, recycling, source reduction) and Final Disposal (final disposal of waste generated in DeKalb County). The attached tables indicate the current status of each task with the 2015 Plan recommendations. Changes from the 15 year plan update are in *italics*.

**TABLE 1**

**TASK #1: PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PROMOTION OF:**

- **SOURCE REDUCTION**
- **HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT**
- **SCHOOL RECYCLING EDUCATION**
- **LANDSCAPE WASTE MANAGEMENT**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION   |
|--------|--|
| 1-1    | Continue the solid waste education program with assistance from the <i>University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service</i>  |
| 1-2    | Continue to provide assistance with the development of schools curricula and presentation of programs to educate students in partnership with <i>University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service</i>  |
| 1-3    | Maintain and promote the “information clearinghouse” at the DeKalb County Health Department and continue to obtain informational documents on source reduction, recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste.  |
| 1-4    | Implement publicity campaigns, and obtain assistance from local civic organizations.   |
| 1-5    | Continue to conduct public outreach campaigns at public events and local festivals.  |
| 1-6    | Continue periodic news/media releases.   |
| 1-7    | Continue to encourage residents to leave grass clippings on the lawn or to backyard compost landscape waste. Provide information on how to minimize potential problems with backyard composting.   |
| 1-8    | Continue to update agency / solid waste “web page” for dissemination of information <i>including Social Media outlets</i> .  |
| 1-9    | Promote and assist with the development of enhanced in-school recycling and waste reduction education programs.  |
| 1-10   | <i>Promote and coordinate Household Hazardous Waste Collection events utilizing the Host Agreement funds</i>   |
| 1-11   | <i>Move Zero Waste forward by increasing outreach and education at all levels, collaboration among governments, keeping the concept in the public eye through a variety of communication strategies, working with waste haulers, and impacting behavior.</i> |
| 1-12   | <i>Publicize and promote Zero Waste Principles in handling of refuse and recyclables through waste/recycling audit findings.</i>   |

**TABLE 2**

**TASK #2: WASTE AUDITS OF COUNTY FACILITIES AND BUSINESSES / EDUCATION AND MOTIVATION OF PRIVATE BUSINESS AND INSTITUTIONS**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION   |
|--------|--|
| 2-1    | Collect information on waste disposal from employees at the facilities and from records if available.  |
| 2-2    | Identify options for changing work processes so that less waste is produced, based on advice from employees with first-hand knowledge.   |
| 2-3    | Identify options for recycling and for procurement of materials that reduce waste.   |
| 2-4    | Expand County government recycling and waste reduction programs, including procurement of recycled content products to set an example for other units of government and business.  |
| 2-5    | Evaluate, monitor, and publicize results of waste audits   |
| 2-6    | Offer assistance with waste audits to commercial, institutional and industrial businesses in the County, providing recommendations for further waste reduction and recycling opportunities.  |
| 2-7    | Provide information to businesses and institutions informing them of the waste audit assistance program, <i>as well as other opportunities through private industry (i.e. waste management companies) who can also provide this service.</i> |

**TABLE 3**

**TASK 3: EVALUATE OPTIONS FOR FACILITATING THE EXCHANGE / REUSE OF REUSABLE MATERIALS**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION  |
|--------|---|
| 3-1    | Evaluate incorporating material exchanges in conjunction with municipal spring and fall clean-up days, and routine municipal pickups. |
| 3-2    | Promote and publicize freecycling – electronic swap boards for materials exchange.  |

**TABLE 4**

**TASK 4: EVALUATION OF OPTIONS FOR MANAGING USED OIL, OLD PAINT, USED TIRES, WHITE GOODS, ELECTRONIC DEVICES AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION  |
|--------|---|
| 4-1    | Encourage and assist local automotive service businesses in participating in the network of used automotive fluid drop-off sites in the County.   |
| 4-2    | Consider alternatives to paint and oil collection program including paint exchanges and single event collection programs.   |
| 4-3    | Explore and evaluate options for local or regional household hazardous waste (HHW) collection and management. Offer periodic local HHW collections.   |
| 4-4    | Assess the need to develop an alternative white goods collection and management system.   |
| 4-5    | Continue work along with the <i>DeKalb County Highway Department</i> in monitoring and evaluating the current system for managing used tires and host an annual used tire recycling drive for tires collected by municipalities during highway maintenance.   |
| 4-6    | Continue to monitor and apply for IEPA's and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) grant programs for the management of HHW, white goods, used tires, and other difficult to manage waste, <i>also utilizing funding for HHW collection events from the Host Agreement.</i> |
| 4-7    | Continue electronics or e-waste collection and management system <i>currently set-up through municipalities.</i>  |
| 4-8    | Investigate medication collection/disposal programs.  |
| 4-9    | Investigate feasibility of operating a recycling drop-off site.   |

**TABLE 5**

**TASK 5: ESTABLISH A NETWORK OF RURAL DROP-OFF CENTERS AND/OR CURBSIDE COLLECTION**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION  |
|--------|---|
| 5-1    | Continue to monitor municipalities, townships, haulers and citizens usage of recycling drop-off centers that service the unincorporated areas of the County.  |
| 5-2    | Continue to evaluate and review sites' manpower needs, operating hours, materials accepted, staff who work at the centers, cost of the program and payment method.  |
| 5-3    | Monitor the need for additional facilities.   |
| 5-4    | <i>Seek alternatives to burning of landscape waste.</i>   |
| 5-5    | <i>Consider investigating the potential need for an ordinance requiring haulers operating in the County to offer residential recycling throughout the County, especially, in rural and unincorporated areas. Evaluate any costs, logistics and other items associated with residential recycling.</i> |



**TABLE 6**

**TASK 6: ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF ORGANIC CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION   |
|--------|--|
| 6-1    | Provide technical assistance to municipalities in establishing and /or expanding curbside or drop-off recycling programs.  |
| 6-2    | <i>Investigate and encourage diversion of organic materials from landfill.</i>   |
| 6-3    | <i>Develop partnerships with other entities that can assist with diversion technologies.</i>   |
| 6-4    | <i>Investigate the potential need for an ordinance requiring haulers to provide curbside recycling of organic waste. Evaluate any costs or logistical needs associated with recycling organic waste.</i> |

**TABLE 7**

**TASK 7: ASSIST MUNICIPALITIES WITH COMMERCIAL (MULTI-UNIT/INSTITUTIONAL) RECYCLING PROGRAMS**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION   |
|--------|--|
| 7-1    | Examine the commercial and institutional recycling services already being offered by local haulers.  |
| 7-2    | Study recycling ordinances or licensing agreements from other local government units.  |
| 7-3    | Conduct public meetings with hauling companies, the local business/industrial associations and public officials on the development of a more comprehensive commercial/institutional recycling program. |
| 7-4    | Provide resources for commercial recycling programs.   |
| 7-5    | Study possible alternatives to increase and promote commercial recycling in the County.  |
| 7-6    | Provide recognition to businesses with waste reduction and recycling programs.   |
| 7-7    | Provide incentives or assistance to businesses that seek to implement waste reduction and recycling programs.  |
| 7-8    | Continue to encourage existing as well as new multi-unit recycling programs in the County  |
| 7.9    | Provide technical assistance to municipalities in establishing and /or expanding multi-unit recycling programs.  |
| 7.10   | Investigate and encourage diversion from landfill of organic materials.  |
| 7.11   | Develop partnerships with other entities who can assist in diversion technologies.   |
| 7.12   | <i>Consider an ordinance requiring commercial accounts to provide recycling of at least their two largest recyclable commodities.</i>  |

**TABLE 8**

**TASK 8: EVALUATION OF CONSTRUCTION / DEMOLITION DEBRIS**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION  |
|--------|---|
| 8-1    | <i>Provide resources to local builders and contractors regarding current construction/ demolition (C/D) management practices and what options are available for recycling and/or reusing materials.</i> |
| 8-2    | Track the generation and management of construction/ demolition debris.   |
| 8-3    | Attempt to identify existing local markets and/or potential markets. Set quantitative recycling goals.  |
| 8-4    | Develop and/or provide information on preferred management of C/D debris.   |
| 8-5    | Support local and regional pilot studies on reducing and/or recycling C/D debris.   |
| 8-6    | Evaluate whether to adopt an ordinance requiring C/D related projects to submit C/D waste reduction plans.  |
| 8-7    | Explore the feasibility of developing a procurement policy for recycled C/D material.   |

**TABLE 9**

**TASK 9: RECORD KEEPING AND REPORTING OF RECYCLING OPERATIONS AND FINAL DISPOSAL**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION   |
|--------|--|
| 9-1    | Track statewide efforts to standardize recycling record keeping and reporting.   |
| 9-2    | <i>Update reporting format as needed.</i>  |
| 9-3    | Continue to collect data and maintain a record keeping system for recycling and waste generation statistics for DeKalb County. |
| 9-4    | Continue to monitor and track the disposal of waste not recycled with input from waste haulers and landfills.                  |
| 9-5    | <i>Annually calculate the landfill rate as pounds per person per day and publicize this rate with the goal of lowering it.</i> |

**TABLE 10**

**TASK 10: OVERALL PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND FUNDING**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION   |
|--------|--|
| 10-1   | Continue to support the Solid Waste Management Program and staff.                                |
| 10-2   | Select technical and legal consultants, if necessary.  |
| 10-3   | <i>Continue to utilize funds from the Host Benefit Agreement from the DeKalb County Landfill</i> |
| 10-4   | Apply for and continue to evaluate the appropriate IEPA and DCEO grant funding.                  |
| 10-5   | Research and evaluate other funding options (e.g. USEPA, FHA).                                   |

**TABLE 11**

**TASK 11: PROGRAM MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION   |
|--------|--|
| 11-1   | <i>Recruit volunteers for an ongoing community advisory committee to plan, track progress, and evaluate success and continue to advance the efforts to achieve zero waste.</i> |
| 11-2   | <i>Conduct waste/recycling audits at county buildings.</i>   |
| 11-3   | Analyze reported data from recycling operations to detect trends and to measure the effects of education and of the ordinances establishing recycling service.                 |
| 11-4   | Seek feedback from haulers, businesses and the solid waste and recycling committee to determine if recycling program goals are on track.                                       |
| 11-5   | Evaluate education program, waste audit program and the recycling provisions of the Plan.  |
| 11-6   | Revise priorities and goals and plan future actions.   |

**TABLE 12**

**TASK 12: LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY TRACKING AND LOBBYING**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION  |
|--------|---|
| 12-1   | Track the status of bills introduced in the General Assembly that may influence the County's Solid Waste Plan.                        |
| 12-2   | Send letters and/or meet with legislators on any key bills.   |
| 12-3   | Track the status of the IEPA's and DCEO's rule-making for the management of household hazardous waste, white goods, and other wastes. |

**TABLE 13**

**TASK 13: FINAL DISPOSAL TASK 1: MONITORING OF EXISTING DISPOSAL CAPACITY**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION   |
|--------|--|
| 13-1   | Conduct an annual evaluation of the location and number of landfills accepting solid waste from the County and the amount of DeKalb County waste they accepted.  |
| 13-2   | Obtain and analyze copies of annual capacity reports and calculations submitted by the landfills to the IEPA (due April 15).   |
| 13-3   | Annually review the capacity status of each landfill accepting waste from the County to determine the viability and economic feasibility of continued reliance on existing landfill disposal capacity. |
| 13-4   | Prepare an annual capacity determination report and submit it to the County Board.   |
| 13-5   | Monitor the quantity of waste being disposed, and monitor and determine the amount of remaining landfill capacity.   |



**TABLE 14**

**TASK 14: FINAL DISPOSAL TASK 2: RESEARCH AND AMEND FACILITY SITING / FILING FEE ORDINANCE AND DEVELOP AND ADOPT LANDFILL SITING CRITERIA**

| Task # | 2015 PLAN RECOMMENDATION  |
|--------|---|
| 14-1   | DeKalb County Board voted to approve Waste Management of Illinois, Inc. for Site Location of the DeKalb County Landfill Expansion. – Resolution #R2010-31. Therefore, siting applications for landfills are no longer necessary. However, the Board may consider applications for other pollution control facilities as deemed necessary and appropriate by the County Board. |