



YOU ARE INVITED - LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST!

Please join Iowa Recycling Association members at our breakfast event in the Iowa State Capitol Rotunda on Wed., March 11 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Pastries and coffee will be provided.



Organization Overview

Our Mission and Vision

Our mission is to promote and advance recycling and sustainable practices in Iowa through collaborative efforts. We envision an Iowa where every material that can be reused or recycled is put to its highest and best use.

Who We Are and What We Do

The Iowa Recycling Association (IRA) is a membership-based, non-profit organization serving as the voice of recycling in Iowa since 1989. We are led by a Board of Directors drawn from all sectors (pictured above).

Our members are individuals and organizations, businesses and industry, local governments and educational institutions working together to create a healthy environment and a healthy economy by promoting recycling and waste-reduction activities.

Questions? Email: iowarecycling@gmail.com

Thank you to our 2026 Legislative Sponsors!





2026 Legislative Priorities



iowarecycles.org

Advance Compost Infrastructure and Processing

Iowa Composting Council (IACC), an organization housed within the Iowa Recycling Association (IRA), supports all efforts for the increased development of quality compost and its use in Iowa as a locally made, natural soil amendment which improves Iowa's soil health and fertility. IACC promotes regulations that support agricultural, residential, and commercial use of compost, processing compost in an environmentally friendly manner that protects our soil, air, and water resources, and reducing organic waste ending up in landfills.

The IACC will continue to advocate for updates to Iowa Code Chapter 200, administered by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), to clearly differentiate compost from fertilizer. Clarifying these definitions will ensure that compost is regulated appropriately based on its intended use and characteristics, rather than being subject to requirements designed for commercial fertilizers. IACC also supports aligning compost storage and distribution requirements in Chapter 200 with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) updated Chapter 102 rules, providing consistency across state regulations and greater clarity for compost producers, users, and regulators.

Enhance and Expand Battery Recycling

IRA supports economic and infrastructure development to improve safe battery recycling opportunities in Iowa. Diversity in types and uses of batteries are continuing to increase with advancements in technology and an increased number of electrified vehicles, e-bikes, and e-scooters. Responsible end-of-life handling is important to prevent fires at solid waste and recycling facilities caused by improperly disposed batteries and recover valuable and marketable materials.

For reasons stated above, IRA supports legislation that would require battery producers to support collection and recycling programs for batteries deemed hazardous and participate in education/outreach programs to inform the public about the proper ways to deal with batteries at their end of life.

Support Container Deposit Law and Recycling Facility Sustainability

IRA supports numerous models to ensure plastic, aluminum, and glass beverage containers are recycled, including redemption, single stream, and source separated. Improved access to beverage container redemption and recycling programs has proven to be a successful litter reduction strategy and results in higher yields of recoverable, valuable materials in the recycling loop.

As the State of Iowa continues to evaluate the time-tested Container Deposit Law, IRA supports improvements to the current law that make it easier for Iowans to have convenient access to recycle. Such improvements could include increased consumer convenience by reducing the distance the consumer has to travel to recycle. IRA supports updates that do not increase the financial burden on local governments and/or public solid waste management organizations, and do not negatively impact, but instead support, recycling processing facilities. In addition, IRA supports increased reporting for financial transparency.

Strengthen Extended Producer Responsibility Policies

IRA supports Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies for products that are unsafe, difficult, and/or costly to manage/recycle at the post-consumer stage of a product's lifecycle. Examples of these types of products include tires, solar panels, wind turbines, latex paint, electronics, appliances, hazardous materials, and disposable, non-recyclable packaging.

EPR policies provide an approach in which a producer's responsibility for a given product is extended to the post-consumer stage. EPR policies shift the responsibility and costs of a product's disposal toward the producer and away from the public, thereby making the producer accountable for the entire lifecycle of their product and associated packaging. When applied effectively, EPR policies reduce financial burdens for municipalities, improve safety for frontline recycling facilities and solid waste management workers, and create incentives for producers to address environmental concerns when designing their products.