



Iroquois County Solid Waste Management Plan 2026 Update

OVERVIEW

HISTORY

Opened in 1988, the Iroquois County Recycling Center once accepted newspapers, steel/tin, aluminum, glass, plastics, magazines, office paper, and cardboard. A new building was erected several years later, with hopes for expansion. A can crusher, plastic granulator, baler, scale, new semi-tractor, new forklift, new skid-steer loader, and recycling trailers were some of the equipment purchases that made the planned expansion possible. The Recycling Center, under the direction of the Iroquois County Board, was a major component of the municipal solid waste plan adopted by the County on October 9, 1991. The above-mentioned equipment was apparently sold upon the sunset of the plan many years ago.

In December 1991, Iroquois County adopted a solid waste management plan, prepared in compliance with the Illinois Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act. The Act requires that "each county waste management plan shall be updated and reviewed every five years, and any necessary or appropriate revisions shall be submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for review and comment.

The primary emphasis of the 1991 Plan was on source reduction education, collection of recyclables, and continued utilization of existing landfill capacity as the primary method of disposal. More than twenty-five years have passed since adoption of the previous Plan by the Iroquois County Board. Many of the Plan's recommendations had been previously implemented, as originally intended.

In November 1992, a Solid Waste Coordinator was appointed by the Iroquois County Board. This position was vacated and the office disbanded in approximately 2010.

2026 UPDATE

Since 1991, national and local developments in the solid waste industry have required reevaluation of some of the original recommendations contained in the plan. Expansions of landfills in adjoining counties are projected to provide sufficient disposal capacity. Previous drop-off/buyback recycling programs that were operating within the county had proven to be economically feasible under those market conditions when they were compared to extensive curbside recycling. There have been legislative changes at the State and Federal level, which require current reassessment of existing programs and recommendations.

The Office of Solid Waste will be re-established, and a Solid Waste Coordinator will be appointed in 2026. The office will assist area residents and government officials with the implementation of programs and recommendations contained in the county's solid waste plan.

Iroquois County will establish a Solid Waste Advisory Committee, which shall include representatives from municipalities within the county, citizen organizations, industry, the private solid waste management industry operating within the county, local recyclers and any other individuals deemed appropriate by the county. The advisory committee shall review the plan during its preparation, make suggestions and propose any changes it believes appropriate.

Iroquois County will provide written notice to all municipalities and interested members of the public when plan development begins and shall provide periodic written progress reports to such entities concerning the preparation of the plan.

Prior to adoption by the governing body of the county, the county shall submit copies of the proposed plan for review and comment to the Agency, all municipalities within the county, all areawide planning agencies and the county health department. The county shall also make the proposed plan available for public review and comment. The period for review and comments shall be 90 days. The county shall hold at least one public hearing on the proposed plan during this period. The plan subsequently submitted to the governing body of the county for adoption shall be accompanied by a document containing written responses to substantive comments made during the comment period by those in attendance during the meeting.

Iroquois County will adopt the plan within 60 days from the end of the public comment period. Within 10 days of adoption, the plan shall be submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for review.

The Iroquois County waste management plan will then be updated and reviewed every 5 years, and any necessary or appropriate revisions shall be submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for review and comment.

This document, the "Iroquois County Solid Waste Management Plan, 2026 Update", has been prepared in accordance with this requirement.



IROQUOIS COUNTY

FIVE YEAR MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT 2026 PLAN UPDATE

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Contact: Scott Anderson- Solid Waste Coordinator
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Watseka, IL 60970
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Original Plan Adoption Date: December 10, 1991
Plan Update: February 1, 2026
Re-Adoption Date:

- *Land Area: 1,120 square miles
- *Population 27,077 (2020 census)
- *Incorporated cities/villages: 21
- *Waste Stream: 50% residential 50% businesses, industries & institutions
- *Waste Collection: 100% private hauling firms
- *Operating Landfills: None
- *Waste Transfer Stations: None
- *Tipping Fees in Surrounding Landfills: Avg. \$45.00/ton
- *Municipal Solid Waste generated per year: approximately 19,100 tons
- *Municipal Solid Waste generation rate: approximately 3.89 lbs/capita/day

RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATIONS

CONTAINED IN THE PROPOSED PLAN

A. Source Reduction

1. Implement waste reduction education program to disperse information to waste generators
2. Provide staff and budget to assist in implementation.

B. Recycling and Reuse

1. County will apply for grant funding for capital cost expenditures and, if received, begin construction of a recycling facility by 2028, to provide processing capacity that will be available in 2031. Current plans are to use existing county owned property for the facilitation of the recycling center. One proposed location will be at the County Highway property located at 1747 US Highway 1 in Watseka. Other locations within the county may be examined at a later date.
2. County to provide funding for local recycling program implementation and provides regional processing facility and marketing capacity for recyclable materials by 2031.
3. Drop-off recycling collection facilities capable of recovering 1,200 tons/year by 2029 and 2,100 ton/year by 2031.
4. Curbside recycling drop-off collections capable of recovering 15% of community specific waste by 2028, and 25% of community specific waste by 2031. Curbside is targeted at communities representing population centers of 1,000 or greater.
5. Maximize participation by adopting mandatory recycling ordinances and/or volume-based garbage rates. Noncompliance penalties shall be imposed to municipalities refusing to participate in the county recycling program. These penalties shall be established based on population, and the terms will be decided by the County Board.
6. Prior to facility expansion, the County will take action to guarantee that an adequate supply of recyclables is delivered to ensure efficient operation and provide sufficient revenue to fund operating costs.
7. Plans will commence to establish on-site paper product recycling before 2031
8. Plans will commence to establish on-site plastics recycling before 2031.
9. Plans will commence to establish regular E-Waste recycling, including a drop-off facility before 2031.
10. Plans will commence to establish biannual Household Hazardous Waste recycling events before 2031.
11. Plans will commence to establish a Battery Recycling event or drop-off location before 2031.

C. Combustion for Energy Recovery

1. Determined unfeasible as disposal option

D. Combustion for Volume Reduction

1. Determined unfeasible as disposal option

E. Disposal in Landfills

1. The County will evaluate the feasibility of developing new waste disposal capacity, to be implemented by the public sector, private enterprise or joint venture, that utilizes MSW composting, landfill disposal, and waste transfer technologies as the primary method of disposal.

CURRENT LANDFILL STATUS:

<u>County</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Anticipated Closure Date</u>
Iroquois, IL	K & H Disposal Landfill	CLOSED
Iroquois, IL	Illinois Waste Systems Landfill	CLOSED
Vermilion, IL	Republic Services Brickyard Disposal Landfill	2198
Livingston, IL	Allied Waste Livingston Landfill	2044
Newton, IN	Republic Services Newton Couty Landfill	2076

F. Funding

1. Landfill Surcharge Fund: State law allows County government to levy a tipping fee surcharge on waste disposed of in landfills within its jurisdiction. Iroquois County no longer has a landfill open within the county so this potential income will no longer apply.
2. Service Fees: Passing the cost of programs onto the customer is a common method of financing. Typically, fees are integrated into household waste collection bills.
3. State Subsidies: Grants are available through the state of Illinois to offset the cost of collection equipment and other capital costs. These subsidies typically require a local match that ranges between 40% to 60% of the total project amount.
4. A feasibility study will be formulated to discover if a county maintained and operated waste transfer facility would generate income to help support the overall program.

F. Proposed Funding Usage

1. Funds will be needed for educating the public on Solid waste management issues. This educational effort is in cooperation with the schools of Iroquois County, the University of Illinois Extension office, and the Soil and Water Conservation District.
2. Funds will be needed for well testing around the two closed landfills in Iroquois County. Also, the County should test the water at the Donovan Grade School which is located across the highway from the closed K & H Landfill.
3. The County previously maintained a reserve fund in the event an additional landfill would need to be located in Iroquois County. Also, funds generated could be used for a material recovery facility, transfer station, or curbside recycling programs in the future.

Recycling Program Status- 2026

Has a recycling program been implemented throughout the county?

Previous program was allowed to sunset. Plans are underway to reestablish a recycling program.

Has a recycling coordinator been designated to administer the program?

Yes, February 2026

Does the program provide for separate collection and composting of leaves?

Collection and centralized composting landscape waste, once privatized, is currently nonexistent. Individual municipalities are responsible for determining local need. The ban on landfill disposal of this waste, and fees charged by private haulers for separate collection, encourages source reduction (on-the-lawn mulching and backyard composting). The county once provided a grant for promotion of on-site composting.

Does the program provide public education and notification to foster understanding of and encourage compliance with the program?

Yes

Does the program include provisions for compliance, including incentives and penalties?

Program is voluntary but provides incentive to participate by operating as a buy-back facility for certain materials according to market conditions.

Does the program include provisions for recycling the collected materials, identifying potential markets for at least three materials, and promoting the use of products made from recovered or recycled materials among businesses, newspapers, and local governments?

Yes. County previously owned and operated the processing facility which directly markets recyclables. Material collected: newspaper, office paper, magazines, cardboard, aluminum, steel cans, plastic bottles (HI)PE, PET), glass bottles. Efforts are being moved forward to reestablish the former recycling program working with the contractor the county utilized in the past.

During fiscal year 2000, the following amounts of materials were collected for recycling at the Iroquois County Recycling Center:

Newspaper:	1,056,142	Magazines:	313,535	Cardboard:	233,410
Glass:	211,957	Steel:	64,696	Plastic:	42,058
Office Paper:	14,520				

The volume was reached using a drop-off buy-back collection system in several communities throughout the county. Volunteer groups work to collect recycled materials, and the Recycling Center picked it up on a regular basis.

As of 2026, since there is a significant reduction in the use of newspapers and magazines these previous numbers will probably be unrealistic. A relationship has been re-established with ACI Enterprises in Alsip, Illinois, to assist the county with reestablishing a recycling program.