

SECTION 2

REVIEW OF EXISTING RECYCLING DATA

INTRODUCTION

The ReCycle Iowa Program and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) conducted three surveys during the two-year period of 1994 to 1996 to measure the quantity, type and extent of plastic, glass, paper and wood waste recycling activity in the State of Iowa.

The results of these three surveys were forwarded to R. W. Beck, Inc. (R. W. Beck) as part of the ReCycle Iowa Program project as are listed below:

- "Market Assessment for Plastic, Glass, and Paper Recycling in Iowa", November 1995 (Iowa Collector's Survey);
- "Market Assessment of the Use of Recycled Resins by Iowa Plastic Companies", June 1996 (Iowa Plastics Survey); and
- "Wood Waste Processing in Iowa", May 1996 (Iowa Wood Waste Survey).

For purposes of this project, the electronic database from each survey was reviewed to assess its compatibility with the ReCycle Iowa Program Economic Impact of Recycling Study (Study) objectives and to extract relevant quantity and economic-related data. Upon completing the review of the survey efforts, quantity and economic-related data was synthesized to create a single database which was used to supplement results gathered from the Study survey conducted by R. W. Beck as part of this project.

COLLECTORS SURVEY

The Iowa Collectors' Survey provides employment, sales and quantity information associated with recovered and processed plastic, glass and paper in the State of Iowa in 1994 and partial year 1995. Results of the 109 public and private collectors (88), processors (65), end-users (16) and brokers (22) participating were reported in the *Market Assessment for Plastic, Glass, and Paper Recycling in Iowa*, dated November 1995. The assessment identified areas of priority for market development activities and provided a foundation for an ongoing system of gathering subsequent recycled materials information in the state of Iowa.

R. W. Beck staff reviewed the quantity and economic-related data gathered through this survey to extract relevant data for the Study. While the Iowa Collectors' Survey provided

useful quantity and economic-related data for *certain* plastic, glass and paper commodities, 12-month data was provided for year 1994 only.

ReCycle Iowa Program staff and R. W. Beck staff previously agreed that year 1995 would be the baseline year for collecting recyclables commodity data for this project. Yet, R. W. Beck staff retained the 1994 quantity and economic-related collectors' data to measure the extent of project coverage/scope of the Study's survey. Moreover, as a result of the incompatibility among the Iowa Collectors' Survey and the Study survey, the existing data was most appropriate for estimating the overall quantity of materials handled on a state-wide basis for some plastic, glass, and paper commodity types.

PLASTICS SURVEY

An Iowa Plastic's Survey was conducted in mid-1995 with the following objectives:

- measure the quantity and types of plastic material recovered as feedstock;
- identify the quantity and types of plastic material recycled/reused; and
- identify the largest processors and/or end-users of plastic materials in the State of Iowa.

Results of the 221 organizations responding to the survey was reported in *A Market Assessment of the Use of Recycled Resins in Iowa Plastic Companies*, dated June 1996.

The survey provided useful information regarding the existing plastics' processing and end-user infrastructure in the State. The existing data was also useful in identifying the "large users" of plastic materials in the state of Iowa and determining which public and private organizations/businesses did not respond to the ReCycle Iowa Program Survey. However, in many instances, the data provided did not enable R. W. Beck to differentiate recycled resin quantities from virgin resin quantities or processing quantities from consumed quantities.

In addition, the survey requested current and anticipated processing and end-use activity. Therefore, it was unclear whether the information provided was linked directly to the 1995 calendar year. Moreover, the results of the Iowa Plastic's Survey included very limited employment, sales, and payroll data.

WOOD WASTE SURVEY

The IDNR, in conjunction with the University of Iowa Department of Urban and Regional Planning, conducted a survey of 147 public and private waste management organizations/businesses to measure the extent of wood waste processing activities in 1995 in the State of Iowa. Results of the 55 organizations/businesses responding to the survey was reported in *Wood Waste Processing in Iowa*, dated May 1996.

Unlike the previous two statewide surveys, the 1995 quantity information gathered from the wood waste survey would be compatible with the 12-month data requested in the Study survey. Respondents to the Iowa Wood Waste survey were cross-referenced with

those responding to the Study survey to assess the quantity of wood waste processed but unaccounted for in the Study survey. This quantity (84,698 tons) will be used to supplement the Study survey data and to measure the economic impacts associated with wood waste processing and end- use in the State of Iowa.

SUMMARY

The resulting database was used to supplement results gathered from the Study survey for the purpose of measuring the economic impacts associated with each of three groups (collectors, processors, and end-users) by commodity type. The resulting database is included in the Appendix. Upon the completion of the Study survey described in Section 2, the data reviewed in this task was specifically used as follows:

- to verify recycling-related information about specific business and community activities;
- to identify key recyclable material processors and end-users not responding to the Study survey; and
- to provide a frame of reference for aggregate recyclable material quantity and economic-related data as related to the primary data collected.