



Iowa Solid Waste Comprehensive Planning Plan Update Form

Resources

[Iowa Code 455B Division IV Part 1 and Iowa Administrative Rule Chapter 567—101](#)

[DNR Solid Waste Comprehensive Planning webpage](#)

Instructions/Notes

Items denoted with an asterisk (*) and noted as optional are not required. The completion of these items is recommended to provide information for the following purposes.

- Inform residents and stakeholders within the planning area.
- Provide benchmark data that may assist the planning area with its long-term planning.
- Assist DNR in understanding challenges that may potentially be addressed through state-wide programs and services.

Planning Area Name Buena Vista Solid Waste Agency

Planning Area Website* <http://www.bvcorecycling.com>

Section 1: Electronic Submission Certification

I certify that I am the authorized representative of the comprehensive planning area and that I have examined the information reported and believe the information is true, accurate and complete.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name Lori Dicks Title Manager

Organization Buena Vista County Solid Waste Commission

Street Address 1263-630th Street

City Storm Lake State IA ZIP 50588

Email bvrecyclecenter@gmail.com

Office Phone 712-732-7171 Mobile Phone* _____

Section 3: Member Participation

3.1 Planning Area Description

Refer to [planning area descriptions](#) Do you agree with the description? Yes No, explain below
All cities and unincorporated areas of Buena Vista County.

3.2 List 28E agreements that apply to any member of the planning area. Planning area members are typically cities and unincorporated areas of counties. Examples of type include: creation, renewal, membership change, etc. If the 28E agreement is not filed with the Secretary of State, attach the 28E agreement. Also, for each 28E agreement membership group, either attach or provide a digital link for a resolution, approving this comprehensive plan update.

List of Current 28E Agreements

Row	Title or description	Type	Expiration date	Sec. of State file #
1	Buena Vista County Sanitary Landfill Commission	28E	NA	
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Notes*

https://buenavistacountysolidwaste-my.sharepoint.com/:b/g/personal/loridicks_buenavistacountysolidwaste_onmicrosoft_com/1QDwtxI9KmLjTo3oO0oodWZeAcH7HsnvbxCTMfBsL9qo4yU?e=rjv7gn

3.3 In the first and second columns of the table below, list every city and unincorporated area within the planning area along with the county. For reference, planning area members are listed on the second page of the planning area's goal progress calculation. Then complete one or more of the following items based on the member's method of cooperation in the planning area.

- If the member is joined in a 28E agreement, list the row number from the table above that identifies the 28E agreement in which the member is covered.
- If the member is not covered in a 28E agreement, list the member's resolution number that approves the comprehensive plan update and either attach the resolution or note the digital link to the resolution.
- If the member is within a designated Iowa Solid Waste Environmental Management System (EMS) service area, check the box in the last column.

As needed, insert additional copies of this page so there is one row for each member.

List of Members

Member - list city name or "unincorporated area"	County	28E Row Number	Resolution Number	Designated EMS
Albert City	Buena Vista	1	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Alta	Buena Vista	1	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Unincorporated Area	Buena Vista	1	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Lakeside	Buena Vista	1	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Linn Grove	Buena Vista	1	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Marathon	Buena Vista	1	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Newell	Buena Vista	1	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Rembrandt	Buena Vista	1	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Sioux Rapids	Buena Vista	1	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Storm Lake	Buena Vista	1	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Truesdale	Buena Vista	1	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
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				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Notes*

Section 4: Solid Waste Disposal Projects and Contractors

4.1 Complete a table for each of the solid waste disposal projects that are or have been in operation anytime within the past 5 years or are under development. As needed, insert additional copies of this page.

Resources

[DNR Solid Waste Permitting database](#)

[Map of Iowa active landfills/transfer stations](#) at bottom of webpage

Facility Name	Buena Vista County Solid Waste Transfer Station		
Permit Type	Transfer Station	Permit Status	Operating
Street Address*	1263-630 th Street	City	Storm Lake
Contact Name	Lori Dicks	Email	bvreyclecenter@gmail.com
Facility Phone	712-732-7171	Facility website*	www.bvcorecycling.com
If TS, name facility of final disposal	Carroll County Landfill	State	Iowa

For operating MSW landfills only, also complete the section below.

List transfer stations from outside of planning area that designate this landfill for final disposal	State
	State

Year site is expected to close*

Vendors for appliance management 21-ADP-07-12: Samson Development-Peterson, Iowa

Vendors for tire management 77-WTM-01 96-Liberty Tire-Des Moines, Iowa

Additional Notes*

Facility Name	NA		
Permit Type	Choose Type	Permit Status	Choose Status
Street Address*		City	ZIP*
Contact Name		Email	
Facility Phone		Facility website*	
If TS, name facility of final disposal	State		

For operating MSW landfills only, also complete the section below.

List transfer stations from outside of planning area that designate this landfill for final disposal	State
	State

Year site is expected to close*

Vendors for appliance management

Vendors for tire management

Additional Notes*

4.2 Provide a description of any significant changes in disposal operations or facilities that are expected to be implemented or seriously considered during the next 5 years or more. This may include but is not exclusive to closures, expansions, developments, new technologies or new processes. As applicable, note attachments or digital links to files.

No changes are anticipated at the time of the plan update.

4.3 Complete the following table to list cooperation with privately owned or operated solid waste sanitary disposal projects participating in the comprehensive plan update. Either attach a letter of cooperation or note a digital link for each listing.

Cooperation from Private Solid Waste Sanitary Disposal Projects

DNR Facility Number	Facility Name	Owner	Operator
NA	NA	NA	NA

Notes*

4.4 Complete the following table to list contracts that any city, county or public agency has with haulers to comply with comprehensive plan requirements. Examples of type include MSW or single-stream recycling.

Cooperation from Haulers

Public Agency or Agencies	Hauler	Type	Expiration Date	Digital link or place contract is filed
Albert City	Carroll Refuse Service	MSW/Recycling		City Hall
Marathon	Grow's Refuse Service	MSW/Recycling		City Hall
Lakeside	Carroll Refuse Service	MSW/Recycling		City Hall
Linn Grove	Grow's Refuse Service	MSW/Recycling		City Hall
Newell	Carroll Refuse Service	MSW/Recycling		City Hall
Rembrandt	Grow's Refuse Service	MSW/Recycling		City Hall
Sioux Rapids	Town & Country	MSW/Recycling		City Hall
Truesdale	Grow's Refuse Service	MSW/Recycling		City Hall
Storm Lake	Carroll Refuse Service	MSW/Recycling		City Hall
unincorporated	Carroll Refuse Service	MSW/Recycling		No Contract
unincorporated	Grow's Refuse Service	MSW/Recycling		No Contract

Notes*

All Cities have single stream recycling programs.

Storm Lake requires any hauler working in the city limits to hold a permit but does not have a contract for collection. Residents and businesses in Storm Lake are not required to have garbage service and can hire a hauler privately.

There is a hauler working under the name "Dump & Dash" that has been working in the Marathon and rural areas- MSW collection only.

Sanitary Services also collects MSW in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Section 5: Public Participation

5.1 Summarize ongoing strategies used by the planning area and/or its members to provide the public with opportunities for input. As applicable, provide digital links and note any attachments.

Strategy	Implemented by	Public Input Method & *Digital Links
Agency website	Buena Vista SWA	Contact us
Agency FaceBook page	Buena Vista SWA	Contact us
Monthly Commission meetings	Buena Vista SWA	Hear the public at each meeting
Transfer Station/Recycling Center office	Buena Vista SWA	Talk with office staff/Manager
Contact a Commission member	Buena Vista SWA	Phone call, emails, in person

Notes*

5.2 List public meetings that were held to develop the comprehensive plan update. Provide digital links to provide proof for publicity of the meeting, an account of public comments and meeting minutes. If applicable digital links are not available, make a note below and provide attachments.

Meeting Type	Mtg. Date	Digital Link to Publicity, Public Comments and Minutes
Informational	9/11/2025	https://buenavistacountysolidwaste-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/lordicks_buenavistacountysolidwaste_onmicrosoft_com/IgCrgZpGGEpaRJpr09d2XBmQAQuRdD1GiCz9kyStF7S6hrk?e=6HXjSI
Public Review/Comment	3/12/2025	will add link following meeting
*Other		

Notes*

Section 6: Changes in Waste Generation & Composition and Goal Progress Factors

6.1 DNR will use the most recent base year waste tonnage and most current fiscal year data set to complete the comprehensive plan update goal progress calculation. Complete the following items regarding the most recent past fiscal year.

- a. Report the number of tons that were generated within the planning area and disposed outside of Iowa. Include details that identify pertaining planning area members and out of state facilities along with the report year.
No known waste was disposed out of State.
- b. Describe changes in waste composition and waste generation rates over the past 5-6 years. Note any attachments or digital links.
Platinum Crush was constructed off of Highway 7 between Storm Lake and Alta and started operating in May 2024. They operate a soybean crush plant and make protein and oils for feed, food and fuel markets. At full operating capacity, the facility has the ability to crush 115,000 bushels daily. The process generates a waste product similar to feed waste and we have seen an increase in tonnage of approximately 1100 ton in FY2025 over FY2024. Feed and Grain waste from area generator's continues to generate a large amount of tonnage, accounting for 2062.17 of total waste landfilled in FY2025. Previous years were FY24-980.57, FY23-936.28 and FY22-898.27 . As of the compilation of this report Platinum Crush has stopped bringing grain waste to our facility. We are unaware of where the waste is going or what alternative for management of the waste material is occurring.
- c. *Provide any comments or notes regarding the current fiscal year data set.
Waste production seems to increase year to year with little change to recycling rates despite very good programs available to the planning area. A graph included in the digital links shows waste by material types and shows little change between types with the exception of feed/grain waste.
- d. *Other
.
- e. *Other

6.2 Complete the following table to describe changes in the planning area since the last approved plan or plan update (typically 5 years ago). Use the drop-down selections for the second column.

Changes from the Past

	Change	Description of possible causes for change
Population	3 Relatively none	Population estimates differ by -10 people from 2020 to 2024
Employment	3 Relatively none	Platinum Crush created an additional 60 jobs, other areas little to no growth.
Industrial production	4 Minimal increase	Platinum Crush increased waste by approximately 1100 tons.
Waste generation	4 Minimal increase	Waste has increased. Grain waste increased as mentioned above
Waste composition	3 Relatively none	Waste composition remains consistent with the exception of grain waste mentioned above.
*Other	Choose Change	
*Other	Choose Change	

Notes*

The City of Storm Lake's population has been in question for many years. Census data has the population set at 11,627 but City officials estimate it to be closer to 14,000 when evaluating school enrollment, water consumption and housing needs. With a demand for 1450 additional housing units by 2035, residential waste generation would potentially increase.

6.3 Complete the following table to project changes and their potential effect on waste generation and composition for the next 5 years. Use the drop-down selections for the second column.

Anticipated Changes for the Future

	Projected Change	Description of possible causes for change	Anticipated Effect on Waste Generation and Composition
Population	3 Relatively none		
Employment	3 Relatively none	IWD projects .5% increase per year	increase in waste production
Industrial production	3 Relatively none		
Waste generation	4 Minimal increase	continual growth in home construction	increase in waste production
Waste composition	3 Relatively none		
*Other	Choose Change		
*Other	Choose Change		

Notes*

Unless there is new industry coming into the planning area, there is anticipated to be relatively minimal to no change in composition or generation aside from the normal increase that seems to be occurring.

Section 7: Integrated Solid Waste Management

Waste Management Hierarchy per 455B.301A, in descending order of preference:

- a. Volume reduction at the source.
- b. Recycling and reuse. (Note: this also includes but is not limited to composting, anaerobic digestion)
- c. Waste conversion technologies.
- d. Combustion with energy recovery.
- e. Other approved techniques of solid waste management including but not limited to combustion for waste disposal and disposal in sanitary landfills.

7.1 Provide a narrative of all waste management programs implemented in the past 5-6 years, addressing all components of the state's waste management hierarchy. Include the following items for each program:

- a. Program description
- b. Responsibility for program oversight
- c. Public education strategies employed
- d. Targeted audiences
- e. Anticipated impact on the waste stream and diversion for the next 5-6 years

As applicable, note any attachments or digital links.

All programs outlined below are administered by Buena Vista Solid Waste Agency staff. The primary audiences for these efforts include residents and businesses throughout the planning area. Public education strategies span a variety of communication channels, including social media, print materials, radio outreach, and website resources, ensuring broad and accessible engagement across the community.

Improving Recycling Efficiency

Since our last plan update, we've prioritized increasing efficiency in recycling processing. In 2022, we commissioned SCS Engineers to evaluate our recycling operations. Their findings highlighted two key needs to continue to process on site:

- Additional staffing would be needed to improve material recovery
- Replacement of aging equipment, as our existing sort system had reached the end of its service life

After an evaluation of the tonnage processed and costs of upgrading equipment and adding staff, outsourcing the processing of the materials was evaluated and found to be the best option.

To address these challenges, we entered into a contract on July 1, 2024, with LJP Waste Solutions dba Van's Sanitation in LeMars. Under this agreement, recyclables collected at our facility are now loaded into trailers and transported to LeMars for processing.

This partnership has already yielded positive results. Van's Sanitation has been able to recover more material than we could with in-house processing, leading to:

- Improved operational efficiency
- Increased diversion from the landfill

We continue to manage some recycling streams at our facility- cardboard, source separated paper and glass.

We're encouraged by this progress and will continue to monitor and refine the system to ensure long-term sustainability and performance.

Public Education and Outreach

Since the last plan update, the Agency has worked diligently to expand public education around proper recycling and waste management practices. Key initiatives include:

- An updated website with clearer guidance and resources
- Direct mailers and flyers distributed throughout the planning area
- A new Facebook page to share timely updates and engage the community

These efforts have strengthened public understanding, helped to reduce contamination in recycling loads, and led to higher recovery rates of recyclable materials. The combination of digital and print outreach has proven effective in reaching both residents and businesses.

In addition, public education programs, presentations, and tours are available upon request to schools, civic groups and community organizations.

*Links to sample materials:

Facebook

https://buenavistacountysolidwaste-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/loridicks_buenavistacountysolidwaste_onmicrosoft_com/IgBjm6XENbrJQljzgvZ_Q5L3AbSkr7X3JGpkcHxHffKoQlc?e=yfum55

Print and mailers

https://buenavistacountysolidwaste-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/loridicks_buenavistacountysolidwaste_onmicrosoft_com/IgAvrqhhuj7SoHe1jhM6_FsAfPswQd238VDr2-4T6G-980?e=bb0RrE

Radio Ads

https://buenavistacountysolidwaste-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/loridicks_buenavistacountysolidwaste_onmicrosoft_com/IgCbLAn-QHdISL573aJJQARGAWsR_cb7WBGO8mleijzxg9E?e=YhWRsp

Website

https://buenavistacountysolidwaste-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/loridicks_buenavistacountysolidwaste_onmicrosoft_com/IgBM3fXb5JafR4CCxKbKKMgcATCpWWBe-uIFTgs7CFtbsDE?e=6DLAVv

Reducing Contamination in Recycling

Reducing contamination in recycling remains a central focus for the Agency, closely connected to our public education efforts and the accountability measures in place for both users and haulers.

With the transition to sending single-stream recyclables to Van's Sanitation, staff gained the capacity to visually inspect every load arriving at our facility. During these inspections, staff remove obvious contaminants—such as bags of garbage and clearly identifiable non-recyclable items—and weigh them. Contamination weights are tracked by load, and detailed monthly reports are provided to each city and hauler.

During the first six months of tracking, we identified contamination levels exceeding 40%, with one month reaching 70% of loads above the 15% contamination allowance. In response, we partnered with cities and haulers to provide targeted education and support aimed at improving collection practices.

Recycling Program Background-Haulers receive a reduced tonnage fee for delivering recyclable materials to the facility. This discount effectively lowers their solid waste disposal cost. However, when non-recyclable materials are collected with recycling and delivered as recyclables, the hauler benefits financially while the Agency absorbs the operational burden.

To address this imbalance, hold haulers accountable, and encourage participation in education and contamination-reduction efforts, the Agency implemented a tiered surcharge system on June 1, 2025, for recycling loads exceeding 15% contamination. Surcharges are applied to the hauler's or city's bill based on contamination level.

Early Results-The surcharge system has proven effective:

- First six months of tracking: an average of 45% of loads exceeded the 15% threshold
- Current performance: only two routes consistently remain above 15%
- Past six months: contamination levels have averaged 10% of loads above the threshold
- Recovery rate: approximately 90% of recyclable materials are now being successfully recovered

While fines are not the preferred method for addressing contamination—and can influence participation if overused—the system has helped reduce contamination, improve material recovery, and reinforce the importance of proper recycling practices across the planning area.

The Agency will continue to monitor load quality, track participation trends, and evaluate the surcharge system to ensure it remains fair, effective, and aligned with long-term recycling goals.

**A graph is included in the digital attachments showing an evaluation of the progress.

https://buenavistacountysolidwaste-my.sharepoint.com/:w/g/personal/loridicks_buenavistacountysolidwaste_onmicrosoft_com/IQBmyOOR7d_uTqDfrTkKJMzpAe6e5Jj7QS1aVT98q_1ZsDw?e=uns7Ej

7.2 Discuss the changes, including new and evolving strategies, efforts and programs implemented for the following items in the past 5-6 years.

a. Increase public awareness about proper recycling and disposal options for motor oil

The Agency actively promotes motor oil recycling through a variety of outreach channels including in person at our facility, community presentations, print materials, direct mailers, our website, social media, and local radio advertisements. We accept motor oil free of charge at our facility and also highlight other businesses that offer the service.

b. Increase public awareness about proper recycling and disposal options for lead-acid batteries

The Agency actively promotes lead acid battery recycling through a variety of outreach channels including in person at our facility, community presentations, print materials and flyers, local radio advertisements, our website and social media pages. We accept lead acid batteries free of charge at our facility.

c. Encourage proper disposal of household appliances

The Agency promotes appliance recycling through multiple outreach channels, including in person at our facility, our website and social media, community presentations, print materials and flyers, and local radio advertisements. We accept appliances for a fee of \$12 per item.

d. Encourage tire stewardship and proper tire recycling and disposal

The Agency promotes tire stewardship and proper recycling of tires through a variety of outreach efforts including in person at our facility, our website and social media pages, local radio and print advertisements, and education presentations.

e. Encourage backyard composting and proper yard waste management

The Agency promotes backyard composting and proper yard waste management through a variety of outreach efforts including in person at our facility, our website and social media outreach, educational presentations, print materials and local radio advertisements. We accept yard waste from residents within the service area free of charge and from commercial users at a rate of \$30 per ton. All yard waste is composted on-site and once screened, the finished compost is given away to the public.

f. Encourage residents to properly manage household hazardous waste

The Agency actively promotes safe disposal of household hazardous materials (HHM) through a variety of outreach efforts including in person at our facility, our website and social media pages, educational presentations, print materials and local radio and newspaper ads. HHM disposal is offered through our satellite facility, with services available free of charge to households within the planning area and for a fee to VSQG's, such as small businesses and farms.

g. *Encourage the reduction of food waste

The Agency actively encourages food waste reduction and composting through an outreach strategy that includes in person at our facility, our website and social media pages, educational presentations and workshops, print materials, flyers and local newspaper and radio advertisements.

h. *Encourage the reduction of construction and demolition waste

The Agency actively promotes C&D waste reduction through a variety of outreach channels, including in-person, on our website and social media pages, educational presentations and workshops, print materials, flyers and local radio and newspaper ads. A cornerstone of our efforts is the wood recycling program, which has been in place for over 30 years. This long standing program provides a reliable outlet for clean wood waste.

i. *Other

j. *Other

Notes*

All topics outlined above are also included in any educational presentations and tours given to schools, civic groups, local government agencies and community members. Tours and presentations are available by request to any member of the planning area, offering an engaging, hands-on way to learn about responsible waste management and environmental stewardship. We welcome opportunities to educate and inspire-whether in the classroom, at community events, or right here at our facility.

7.3 Provision of Separation of Paper, Plastic, Metal & Glass

Does every resident within the planning area currently have access to recycling services for paper, Yes No plastic, metal and glass?

Describe the programs and services that are available in the planning area that provide for the separation of paper, plastic, metal, and glass within the planning area, noting any attachments and digital links.

Recycling services are widely available throughout the planning area. Curbiside recycling is offered in every city. Drop off service is available to all residents and businesses at the Agency's facilities and it is free of charge. Rural collection is available through select haulers serving outlaying areas. The multi access approach ensures that recycling is convenient and inclusive, helping increase participation. These recycling services include paper, plastic, metal, and glass.

7.4 Optional: Complete the table below, describing existing access to recycling services. Use the Sector(s) column to indicate which residential sector(s) is being identified in the row, such as single-family, multi-family, subscribers only, all, etc. As needed, attach additional copies of this page of the form and note any attachments.

Notes*

7.5 Optional: Describe any reduction or loss of programs or services during the past 5-6 years that caused the management of waste streams or materials to change to a less preferred method on the waste management hierarchy. For each item, include its impact so far and its anticipated impact in the next 5 years or more. Note any attachments or digital links.

Between 2012 and 2023, our asphalt shingle recycling program successfully diverted over 3,093 tons of material from the landfill. Unfortunately, in 2023, the program was forced to pause when our grinding partner, J. Petticord, discontinued shingle processing services.

As a result, asphalt shingles are currently being landfilled until a new grinding provider can be secured. This change is expected to negatively impact our diversion rates over the next five years.

We remain committed to finding a sustainable solution and will continue to explore partnerships that support responsible waste management.

Section 8: Evaluation of Progress

Check which of the allowable methodologies were employed to evaluate progress in the last 5-6 years towards meeting the state's waste volume reduction and recycling goals. Multiple boxes may be checked.

- Trend analysis of goal progress since the initial comprehensive plan
- Formal, stakeholder-based collaborative goal-setting process
- Analysis of the effectiveness or benefit of existing programs

Explain the analysis below, noting any attachments and digital links.

Digital link containing Section 8 graph A shows the evaluation of the recycling program contamination rates. The graph shows in 2024 the rates went from 70% of the loads received being over the acceptable contamination rate.

Improvements have been made and this graph shows the work we are doing is making progress.

Digital link containing Section 8 graph B shows the evaluation of the materials received over the past 5 years. In FY2021 we were not tracking feed/grain waste separately from commercial waste and also, we began separating bulky waste out of C&D and Commercial waste in January 2021. The tonnage on all materials remains relatively consistent year after year. There was a slight spike in commercial and residential waste in FY2024 and that corresponds with the recycling contamination rates and haulers making changes to reduce waste in the recycling. Feed waste shows the most significant increase in FY2025, as noted in the plan update with the Platinum Crush plant now operating in the planning area.

The decline in C&D tonnage is strongly correlated with the introduction of Bulky Waste tracking. This shift reflects improved categorization rather than a reduction in construction-related disposal.

The rise in Feed Waste tonnage and the slight dip in Commercial totals is directly correlated with the separation of Feed Waste into its own reporting stream.

Digital link to Section 8 graph C shows the overall trend of landfill tonnage increases over the 5 year period.

- Landfill tonnage increased 1,827.87 tons over the five-year period.
- This represents a 10.1% rise from FY2021 to FY2025.

Year-to-Year Changes

- FY2021 → FY2022: +62.67 tons

Essentially flat, indicating stable waste generation.

- FY2022 → FY2023: +421.57 tons

A modest increase, likely reflecting grain and feed waste generation.

- FY2023 → FY2024: +1,067.56 tons

The largest jump in the dataset—suggests a significant shift in waste generation

- FY2024 → FY2025: +276.07 tons

Growth continues but at a slower pace than the previous year.

Key Insights for Reporting

- FY2024 is the inflection point, marking the beginning of a sharper upward trend.
- The flattening between FY2024 and FY2025 may indicate stabilization, but tonnage remains at its highest level in the five-year window.

Digital link to Section 8 graph D shows the significant rise in feed/grain waste, which accounts for the rise in landfill tonnage for FY2025.

Recyclables delivered to the facility have remained stable over the past five fiscal years, averaging 1,493 tons annually with only modest year-to-year variation. This consistency reflects steady participation across our communities and a reliable recycling stream.

Link to information discussed in this section:

https://buenavistacountysolidwaste-my.sharepoint.com/:w/g/personal/loridicks_buenavistacountysolidwaste_onmicrosoft_com/IQBmyOOR7d_uTqDfrTkKJMpAf_Q8s1tKfTHDyhPyIQo7Zk?e=6ySX3q

Section 9: Plan Implementation

Provide a specific plan and schedule for implementing the comprehensive plan during the next 5-6 years. Include the following items:

- a. Proposed activities and locations
- b. Responsible organization(s)
- c. Implementation milestones
- d. Public education strategies
- e. Anticipated impact on the waste stream and diversion

As needed, note any attachments or digital links.

The following additional or expansion of programs were identified as priorities during the next 5-6 years at the initial public meeting for the plan development.

Battery Recycling Program Expansion

Growing fire risks in the waste and recycling industry demand increased attention from all stakeholders. To reduce the improper disposal of batteries—particularly lithium-based batteries that pose significant fire hazards—the Agency aims to make battery recycling more convenient and accessible across the planning area.

To support this goal, the Commission will explore partnerships with City Halls, Fire Stations, hardware stores, and other community locations to place battery collection boxes throughout the region. The program will be administered by the Buena Vista Solid Waste Agency.

Program Timeline

2026–2027

- Identify community partners willing to host battery collection boxes
- Determine the infrastructure needed for safe collection at each site
- Establish logistics for transporting collected batteries to the Commission facility for sorting and shipment to certified recyclers

2026–2030

- Implement public education and advertising campaigns to promote proper battery disposal
- Provide ongoing support and guidance to participating collection partners and host sites
- Expand outreach efforts to grow program participation

2027–2030

- Evaluate program performance, including participation levels, safety outcomes, and diversion impacts
- Assess program needs and identify opportunities for expansion or improvement

Anticipated Impact-Positive

The program is expected to reduce fire risks associated with improper battery disposal and increase waste diversion by capturing more batteries for safe, responsible recycling.

Customer Convenience: Drive-Through Recycling Drop-Off

Convenient access to recycling services is a key factor in encouraging participation. The Agency recognizes that an easy-to-use, customer-friendly facility is essential to maintaining and improving recycling rates. After removing outdated recycling equipment from a portion of the facility, staff and Commission members evaluated potential uses for the newly available space. A drive-through recycling drop-off emerged as the top option to enhance customer convenience and streamline material handling. The program will be administered by the Buena Vista County Solid Waste Agency.

Program Timeline

2026–2027

- Explore facility alterations needed to make the area fully “drive-through” accessible
- Consult with outside contractors to update overhead doors and complete other necessary upgrades

2027–2028

- Complete identified construction and safety improvements to prepare the area for vehicle traffic
- Establish designated drop-off areas for e-waste, batteries, bulbs, glass, paper, cardboard, metal, plastics, used oil/filters, and a space for hazardous-waste reuse items

2028–2030

- Promote the new drive-through service through public education and outreach
- Provide clear guidance to residents and businesses on how to use the facility

2028–2030

- Conduct annual evaluations of program performance, customer use, and future needs

Anticipated Impact-Positive

The drive-through recycling drop-off is expected to increase participation, improve customer satisfaction, and boost waste diversion by making recycling more accessible and efficient for the entire planning area.

Recycling: Convenient Access and Improved Efficiency

The Agency has discussed the challenges faced by smaller communities in the planning area, particularly the low participation rates in curbside recycling programs. Exploring alternative or supplemental options may help increase engagement and make recycling more accessible for residents in these communities.

One potential solution is to provide scheduled recycling trailers that rotate through communities on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis. This model could offer a predictable and convenient drop-off option for residents who may not have reliable curbside service. Additionally, some cities have expressed interest in providing recycling carts to households to improve curbside participation. The program would be a shared responsibility between individual cities and the Buena Vista Solid Waste Agency.

Program Timeline

2028–2029

- Collaborate with cities to assess needs and identify suitable locations for drop-off trailers
- Explore monitoring options and determine an appropriate service schedule
- Research potential funding sources to support program development

2029–2030

- If the program is deemed beneficial and supported by participating cities, assist with the purchase of trailers
- Develop marketing and educational materials for affected residents
- Define responsibilities for both the Agency and participating cities
- Cities interested in curbside recycling carts will explore funding opportunities such as grants or low-interest loans

2030 and Beyond

- If implemented, track changes in recycling participation and tonnage to evaluate program effectiveness and guide future improvements

Anticipated Impact-Positive

This initiative is expected to increase recycling participation, particularly in smaller communities, and boost overall waste diversion across the planning area.

Maintain/Improve Existing Programs

The agency's long-standing waste diversion programs are essential to reducing landfill disposal, protecting environmental quality, and meeting the requirements of Comprehensive Planning. These programs have consistently diverted significant tonnage from the landfill and remain foundational to the agency's overall success.

2026–2030

The agency will prioritize maintaining and enhancing these established programs to ensure they remain effective, accessible, and aligned with evolving community needs. Continued investment in these programs is essential to our planning area in sustaining environmental progress and supporting the long term goals of the planning area.

Foster Financial Stability

Maintaining strong financial conditions is fundamental to every aspect of the solid waste agency's operations. With ongoing risks such as reduced waste flow, evolving solid waste regulations, and potential of required expansion of additional programs or services, the agency must remain proactive in its financial planning and oversight.

Facilities and programs offered within the planning area are funded through tipping fees and public funds and serve as valuable community assets. Sustaining these services is essential; however, changes to flow control or other governing laws could jeopardize the agency's ability to continue offering them. Ensuring long-term financial stability is therefore critical to preserving these programs and protecting the community's investment.

2026-2030 and beyond

Ongoing monitoring of legislation, regulatory changes and other external factors is required to stay on top of changes and respond effectively to conditions that could negatively impact the Agency.

Consider updating existing 28E agreement

2026-2030

While the current existing agreement remains in effect, a revision could better reflect the Agency's updated operations, responsibilities, and the evolving roles of its partners.

Refreshing the agreement also presents an opportunity to reignite member commitment to shared waste-reduction goals and program participation. Strengthening this collective commitment has the potential to increase recycling rates, improve engagement across the planning area, and support continued growth in the Agency's relationships and program success.

Section 10: Fees for Comprehensive Planning

Of remitted tonnage fees, a first portion (varies between \$0.80 - \$1.05/ton depending on diversion rate) is to be used for comprehensive plan implementation and the remaining \$0.50/ton is to be used for environmental protection activities and comprehensive planning.

10.1 Complete the table below to give an overview of expenditures for comprehensive plan **implementation** over the past 5-6 years.

Remitted Fees Used for Comprehensive Plan Implementation

Amount	Fiscal Year(s)	Description
\$28,346.40	2021	Advertising, recycling programs, comp plan activities
\$32,507.63	2022	Advertising, recycling programs, recycling study, website upgrades, comp plan activities
\$30,105.30	2023	Advertising, recycling programs, recycling study, comp plan activities
\$33,180.43	2024	Advertising, recycling programs, comp planning activities
\$38,668.39	2025	Advertising, recycling programs, comp planning activities

Notes*

Expenditures exceed remitted fees every year.

10.2 Complete the table below to give an overview of expenditures for environmental protection activities and comprehensive **planning** over the past 5-6 years.

Remitted Fees Used for Environmental Protection Activities and Comprehensive Planning

Amount	Fiscal Year(s)	Description
\$15,079.30	2021	Leachate management, Engineering-preparing/analyzing data/testing
\$31,954.97	2022	leachate management, Engineering-preparing/anaylizing data/testing
\$29,866.27	2023	Leachate management, Engineering sampling/analizing data/testing
\$24,751.41	2024	Leachate management, testing, engineering-analysis, testing, data
\$28,461.46	2025	Leachate management, testing, engineering, environmental protection programs

Notes*

Expenditures exceed remitted fees every year.

Section 11: Attachments & Notes

As needed, use this page or a format of your choice to list attachments or digital links to files.

List of Attachments