



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Winnebago & Boone Counties to Revamp Solid Waste Management Plan

ROCKFORD, IL —Winnebago and Boone Counties are partnering to update their Solid Waste Management Plans. As planning consultant, Region 1 Planning Council is working with these stakeholders to develop a **Regional Solid Waste Management Plan** that establishes a robust and sustainable waste management system. The planning process will include several opportunities for public input and a Solid Waste Advisory Committee of key public and private stakeholders to provide collaboration and expert advice.

ABOUT THE REGIONAL SOLID WASTE PLAN - The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan is a later iteration of the comprehensive solid waste management plan required under the Illinois Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act of 1990. This act required all counties with a population of 100,000 or more to create and adopt an approved solid waste management plan that addresses the management of municipal waste within its boundaries. The **Regional Solid Waste Management Plan** will address key topics around waste reduction, recycling, current and proposed waste management practices, and an implementation plan for further action.

“We are excited to begin work on updating Winnebago and Boone Counties’ Solid Waste Management Plan, and think there are many opportunities for social, environmental, and economic improvement to explore in this region,” stated Shelby Best, Environmental and Sustainability Specialist at Region 1 Planning Council.

“Updating our solid waste management plan has been a long time in the making,” said Winnebago County Chairman Joe Chiarelli. “This plan update will help Winnebago County identify major risks and take action in reducing our waste and impact on the surrounding environment. With the help of the soon-to-be created Solid Waste Advisory Committee, our goal is to produce a plan that will spur both economic activity and innovative environmental solutions.”

Boone County Chairman Karl Johnson adds, “We are looking forward to partnering with Winnebago County to update and combine both of our solid waste management plans. Neither water nor air acknowledge county boundaries, so it’s crucial we work together to build a more resilient region.”

The primary goal of solid waste management is to reduce and eliminate adverse impacts of waste materials on human health and the environment to support economic development and superior quality of life. Winnebago and Boone Counties are looking forward to addressing opportunities to improve waste management in the region.

For questions on the Winnebago & Boone County Regional Solid Waste Management Planning process, please contact Shelby Best at sbest@r1planning.org.

ABOUT R1 - Region 1 Planning Council (RPC) is a special-purpose, regional government agency. Regional councils are public organizations comprised of local elected officials that promote collaboration among local governments, working across the jurisdictional silos of states, counties, and municipalities
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