

## **Solid Waste Management in Champaign County**

### ***County Authority for Solid Waste Planning***

The Illinois Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act (415 ILCS 15/), enacted in 1988, required each county to develop a comprehensive solid waste management plan by March 1, 1995. Champaign County adopted the Champaign County Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) on February 19, 1991, with its most recent five-year update adopted on November 21, 2017.

### ***Intergovernmental Solid Waste Disposal Association (1986 – 1997)***

In 1986, Champaign County, the City of Urbana, and the City of Champaign formed the “Intergovernmental Solid Waste Disposal Association” (ISWDA) to develop and implement a solid waste management plan for Champaign County. Upon county adoption of the SWMP in 1991, the ISWDA encountered many barriers to implementing the recommended landfill and transfer station facility in Champaign County. Additionally ISWDA initiatives to standardize collection and processing procedures throughout the County through flow control measures met with resistance.<sup>1</sup> In Spring of 1992, after opposition to a landfill was met from the farming community in Homer, and amidst negotiations with waste haulers to privatize collection of solid waste, the City of Champaign decided to withdraw from ISWDA. The ISWDA lost its original authority and its power to implement the SWMP became severely limited. By mutual agreement in 1997, the ISWDA was officially dissolved.

### ***Landfill Capacity in Illinois EPA Region Four***

Figure 5-6 indicates the locations of the seven active landfills in IEPA Region Four as of January 1, 2017.<sup>2</sup> Active landfills in Illinois are required to report to the IEPA the quantities of solid waste they receive each year, and to calculate and report the amount of remaining capacity available or existing on the first day of the following year. These figures are submitted to IEPA in “gate cubic yards,” or the volume of waste entering the landfill’s gate. Remaining capacities are expressed as certified gate cubic yards, meaning that calculations have been certified as true and accurate by a licensed professional engineer. Table 5-5 displays the reported disposal volumes, capacity remaining, and life expectancy of the active landfills in IEPA Region Four.

### ***Waste Haulers and Transfer Stations***

Private local waste haulers provide solid waste collection services for residents and businesses in most municipalities within the county. Waste transfer stations located within Champaign County provide a means for local waste haulers to consolidate waste from multiple collection vehicles into larger, high-volume transfer vehicles for more economical shipment to distant landfill disposal sites. The Republic Services Urbana Transfer Station located in Urbana is the only waste transfer station open to waste haulers and to the public. The Waste Transfer Station located at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana serves only the University-managed solid waste collectors that operate on campus.

### ***Need for Household Hazardous Waste Collection***

In Champaign County and in most downstate counties, improved options for residents to responsibly dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) are needed.<sup>3</sup> There are only very limited appropriate HHW collection options in Champaign County.<sup>4</sup> The improper disposal of HHW can affect air, land, and water quality. Improper disposal of unwanted medication and pharmaceuticals, often considered a subset of HHW, can pose health and environmental risks. Based on U.S. EPA data, the average U.S. household generates more than 20 pounds of household hazardous waste per year. As much as 100

Proposed Minor Amendment to Chapter 5 LRMP Volume 1, Chapter 5

pounds can accumulate in the home, often remaining there until the residents move out or do an extensive cleanout.

Figure 5-6: Landfills in IEPA Region Four - East Central Illinois as of January 1, 2017



Source: IEPA Illinois Landfill Disposal Capacity Report, July 2017  
<http://www.epa.illinois.gov/topics/waste-management/landfills/landfill-capacity/2016/index>

Table 5-6: Landfill Capacity and Disposal Volume in IEPA Region Four

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of Landfills	8	7	7	7	7	7	7
Capacity (cubic yards)	190,200,000	179,600,000	210,200,000	197,462,333	200,720,569	186,742,629	170,783,372
Reported Estimated Disposal Volume (cubic yards)	7,500,000	7,100,000	6,800,000	6,523,376	6,892,973	6,855,177	7,313,074
Life Expectancy (years)	26	25	31	30	29	27.2	23.4

Source: IEPA Illinois Landfill Disposal Capacity Reports, 2010-2017

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Chapter 5 Notes:

1. The flow control restrictions were an integral part of the SWMP to pay for the operation of a Champaign County landfill and transfer station.
2. IEPA Region Four includes 19 counties located in East Central Illinois: Champaign, Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Effingham, Ford, Iroquois, Jasper, Livingston, Macon, McLean, Moultrie, Piatt, Shelby, and Vermilion.
3. The US EPA categorizes household hazardous wastes (HHW) as solid waste. HHW consists of the unwanted or unusable portion of consumer products that contain substances that can harm human health or the environment. A product is hazardous if it exhibits one or more of the following properties: flammable/ignitable, explosive/reactive, corrosive, or toxic.
4. Certain retail businesses provide an option to collect specific HHW items such as CFLs, rechargeable batteries, lead acid batteries, and transmission fluid. In Champaign County, only four pharmaceutical collection boxes are located centrally in Champaign-Urbana and are accessible on a 24-hour basis.