



We're Moving! (but not far)



New look, same great team! NRC is busy preparing to settle into our new office on February 8th. We are excited to have a more functional space for our organization. Here's our new address for, you know, fun things like mail and visits:

**3800 VerMaas Place, Suite 102
Lincoln, NE 68502**

Thanks for updating your address book!

What a wonderful time...to become a member!

If you're considering a membership with NRC, now is the perfect time to join! We have switched to a calendar year renewal system, making the process more efficient for us and hopefully easier for you, too. And you may have noticed the small celebration of *ahem* New Year's recently.



What's in it for you?

Membership comes with many perks, such as free and discounted services, a listing on our website, and the opportunity to win an award at our Annual Awards Luncheon and receive recognition for your accomplishments in waste reduction and recycling. We are also introducing...

The NEW member directory!

The benefit here is two-fold. Members will be listed in the directory, giving them more exposure. And members will receive the directory, complete with contact information to stimulate networking and collaboration. It's not too late to be listed in the directory! Join by January 25th to be included.

Is *right now* the only time you can join?

Nope! You can join ANY time. We will prorate your membership for this year based on when you join and then begin your calendar year renewal Jan 1. You will still receive a member directory, but your listing will begin next year.

We love our members!

We are so thankful for our members, who help keep our organization going and who join us in the continuing efforts toward a cleaner, healthier Earth. Our members are our friends, and we hope you will be our friend, too.

[JOIN US](#)

Legislation of Concern: LB945 and LB762

IMPORTANT!!! LB945: Transfer of Funds from NDEQ

This bill provides for a transfer of funds out of both the Litter Reduction & Recycling Grant Fund and the Waste Reduction & Recycling Grant Fund. The Litter Grant Fund transfer would increase from \$200,000 to \$700,000, and the Waste Reduction & Recycling Grant transfer would increase from \$400,000 to \$900,000. These are the same amounts transferred in July, 2017 that resulted in greatly reduced funding for 2018 Litter Grant recipients, like NRC and Keep Nebraska Beautiful affiliates, and that will adversely affect 2018-19 Waste Reduction and Recycling Grants due Feb. 1.

The hearing for this bill will be on Monday, January 22 at 1:30 pm CST in the Appropriations Committee, Room 1524. It is important that city officials and other entities that will be affected send written testimony about how this would adversely affect programs that are essential for waste reduction and recycling before the hearing. Testimony can be address to Sen. John Stinner, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, jstinner@leg.ne.gov.

LB762: Don't let these funds "retire"

Introduced by Senator Hughes, LB762 extends funding for the scrap tire recycling grants which is set to expire in 2019. The bill was referred to the Natural Resources Committee on January 8th.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Tire Grants support local efforts to clean up old tire piles, conduct community collection events, and are used by organizations and schools to purchase products made from scrap tires. The grants are funded by a \$1 fee on all new tires purchased in Nebraska; last year that amounted to \$1.7 million and supported 100 tire recycling and cleanup projects across the state. Bill status https://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=33895



Keeping an Eye on Plastics

The proliferation and use of plastics has had terrible environmental consequences on our earthly homeland for many years; however, the economics of plastics packaging has overcome our better judgment when it comes to pollution prevention. What will it take for humanity to give up its plastic habit? Below are newsworthy developments in the wide world of plastics pollution and recovery.



Help for Community Recycling Programs

We don't recommend that communities change their recycling programs because of the recent China Ban, but we do recommend that they take some time to review their education and outreach programs. The American Chemistry Council, an organization that represents producers of plastic resins, has created a "Terms & Tools" resource to help communities educate residents about which plastics can be recycled and best practices. It has a tool for building a customized flyer for your community, with recommendations on the best terminology to use. See it [HERE](#).

Working on it...

In December, *Recycling Today* reported that Closed Loop Partners is working with Ocean Conservancy, the Trash Free Seas Alliance, 3M, PepsiCo, Procter & Gamble, The Coca Cola Co., the American Chemistry Council and the World Plastics Council in an initiative called Closed Loop Oceans. Research indicates that nearly half of plastic debris in the earth's oceans originates from five fast growing economies in Asia -Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand and China. Incredibly, 99% of the plastic in the ocean can't be accounted for, leading to the conclusion that animals are eating much of it, mistaking it for food. The initiative will focus on galvanizing investment in waste management and recycling solutions in Southeast Asia.

Resource Recycling recently reported that Dow Chemical is partnering with Indonesia to recycle post-consumer plastics into asphalt for use in road pavement. 3.5 metric tons of recovered plastic were mixed into asphalt, which was used to create a mile-long stretch of test road in West Java late last year. The resulting pavement is "more resistant to deformation and fatigue-cracking than standard asphalt".

Closer to Home

An initiative from the Flexible Film Recycling Group (FFRG) of the American Chemistry Council called **Wrap Recycling Action Program (WRAP)** was launched in Omaha last month to capture more plastic wraps and bags, including grocery bags, produce bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags and food storage bags. Other materials accepted include plastic wraps for beverage cases, diapers, bathroom tissue and paper towels, plus bubble wrap and shipping film. Four Hy-Vee grocery stores participated in the launch. To find a drop-off location near you, visit: <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/find-drop-off-location/>

Webinars & Events

[National Trash and Recycling Survey 2017/2018](#)

Earn a chance to win a Kindle Fire or gift certificate.

[Webinar: Quality Matters - Free Resources to Support Plastic Recycling Programs](#)

Thursday, January 25 | 12pm - 1:30pm | [REGISTER](#)

[SLPS Webinar: Solar Solutions for Communities](#)

Thursday, February 1 | 3:30pm - 4:30pm | [REGISTER](#)



Articles of Interest

[EcoStores Loses Lease; Future Uncertain](#)

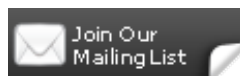
EcoStores Nebraska looking for alternative locations after losing its lease.

[A Food Waste Resolution for 2018](#)

Prevention of food waste in the restaurant industry.

[EnergyBag Expands into Idaho and Georgia](#)

Two more cities in the US adopt Hefty Energy Bag program amid controversy.



Nebraska Recycling Council

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www.NRCNE.org

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