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August 2017 Newsletter



Getting to know you.....

Last week, I took a four-day trek across the beautiful area of Nebraska between Lincoln and Ogallala, along and south of I-80. I wanted to meet and learn from people involved in recycling services, covering as much territory as possible in that timeframe.

It was a humbling and energizing experience. There are many people in greater Nebraska working up against significant barriers to recycling, yet so many are able to provide excellent waste diversion services to their constituents. It takes a lot of cooperation within communities to make this work, and in several instances, cooperation between communities.



And yet, there are still gaps in services that need to be solved. One of my objectives was to learn if we could support more collaboration between communities and improve processing capabilities in key areas. At NRC, we think this could provide economic benefits and better access to recycling for all. My thanks go to all of you who took the time to meet and show me around. Next trip will be to visit the Panhandle, stopping at some of the key points on the way that I missed this time around.

~Julie

P.S. We are eager to support implementation of Lincoln's cardboard ban, effective April 1, 2018. Does your business need help setting up a recycling program, selecting best containers or developing a shared services program with your neighbors? NRC has the expertise and experience to help. Contact us at 402-436-2384 and ask for Julie or Heather.

P.P.S. OMAHA Solid Waste Management: Omaha citizens will have a chance to comment on contract options and equipment for the next solid waste contract at open houses in July and August. Learn more: <http://www.wasteline.org/future.htm>

Lunch & Learn features

HopCat's Zero Waste Program

Join NRC for a Lunch & Learn on Thursday, August 31, 2017 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm at HopCat, 601 P Street. Learn how HopCat works with local providers to recycle and compost organics, how they train employees, and engage their green team. In addition to waste diversion, green team initiatives include water and energy conservation, and community engagement with NGOs, volunteering and charitable giving.

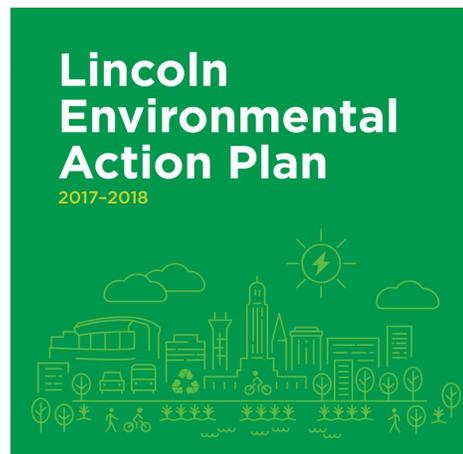


During lunch, HopCat will deliver a presentation about their sustainability program, which enjoys a 90% waste diversion rate. The cost for lunch is \$16 for NRC members and \$17 for non-members. Lunch includes an entrée, side, soft drink, taxes and gratuity. Registration is required.

To register: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eeefv8g13d02271&oseq=&c=&ch=>

Mayor's Environmental Plan for City of Lincoln

On July 11th, Mayor Chris Beutler released a draft environmental plan for the City of Lincoln to guide action in the areas of energy, land use, transportation, waste, and water. The City is seeking public input on the draft Lincoln Environmental Action Plan (LEAP) before the final plan is presented as a resolution to the City Council in August. Residents are encouraged to review the draft plan, ask questions and make comments through Monday, August 7 at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: [LEAP](#)).



In waste reduction and recycling efforts, the LEAP outlines the following strategies and goals:

- Reduce the annual per capita disposal rate to the landfill from 2,250 to 1,940 lbs. per person by 2018.
- Increase the recycling rate from 22% (2015) to 50% by 2030 with a comprehensive residential and commercial recycling plan.
- Increase waste and recycling diversion in City of Lincoln buildings to help meet community goal of increasing the recycling rate.
- Develop and construction and demolition recycling strategy for publicly supported construction projects.
- Increase the amount of hazardous waste material diverted from the landfill to 100,000 lbs per year.

The draft plan can be read at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/mayor/energy/pdf/City-of-Lincoln-LEAP.pdf>.

Webinars & Events

Iowa Recycling and Solid Waste Management Conference and Trade Show: October 2-4: Iowa City/Coralville
<http://www.iowaconference.org/>



Nebraska Safety Council: Forklift Safety Training
<https://www.nesafetycouncil.org/index.php/training-courses-and-conferences/training-courses/27-workplace-safety/nebraska-training-courses/121-forklift-safety-training>

Articles of Interest

Hefty Energy Bag Program & Grants
<https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2017/07/05/in-my-opinion-get-the-numbers-to-sway-city-council-on-recycling/>



Advice from Boise to Chicago: In recycling education, 'focus on the most critical issues'
<http://www.wastedive.com/news/advice-from-boise-to-chicago-in-recycling-education-focus-on-the-most-cr/446526/>

Become a Member!



Nebraska Recycling Council is a statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, whose mission is to maximize the economic and environmental benefits of resource recovery in Nebraska. Visit our website at www.NRCNE.org and become a member or make a donation today.



Nebraska Recycling Council
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