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January 2018 Newsletter



Hello, 2018! What's your theme?



Some of you reading this post are too young to feel a strong connection with singer-songwriter Jackson Browne, but you may know some of his songs. "[These Days](#)" popped into my head this morning while I was reflecting on what NRC's theme should be in 2018. The theme of this song is love, loss and regret - not the theme NRC is seeking in 2018! The pain and sadness expressed in the lyrics is in the present moment, but the underlying wish is for a better future.

Many of you are aware by now that the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and its grantees took a hit in 2017. NDEQ had an unprecedented number of grant requests, far exceeding the funds available for its Litter Reduction and Recycling grants. Instead of choosing to fund only the highest scorers, they reduced funding by a minimum of 50% for all grant requests. The result is that many nonprofits working in resource recovery, like NRC, will go through a rough patch in 2018 to cover operating expenses.

So, the question is, what **theme** will guide us in 2018? What will take us from "These Days" to the future we want to create?

Here's what I know: We will adapt. We will heed the lesson of diversifying our funding sources. We will continue to build a coalition of individuals, organizations, communities, and service providers. In fact, our first statewide Advisory Council meeting will take place January 31st! We will ask our good friends and new acquaintances to share their wisdom, and listen carefully. We will support

communities that pool their resources and build resource recovery networks. And we will persevere until resource recovery is the norm in Nebraska.

Shared wisdom, shared resources, perseverance.

Did you ever watch the 90's TV series, *Ally McBeal*? I think we need to pick a **theme song**, one that motivates and inspires us, just like Ally's therapist, Dr. Tracy Clark (Tracey Ullman), advised Ally to do in one of the episodes. But we need your help.

What's that "power" song that builds you up, inspires you, and puts the spring in your walk?
(Example) ["A New Way to Walk" with Destiny's Child \(Beyoncé\)](#) **Please send your suggestions and we'll share them on Facebook!**

P.S. Thanks to everyone who took the survey about our [case studies](#)! And a big CONGRATULATIONS to our [HopCat](#) gift card winner - Nicole Effle! Thanks for participating, Nicole, and we hope you enjoy your meal!

- Julie

Webinar - One Province, One System: A Recycling Model Funded by Producers

Join our webinar on Tuesday, January 23rd from noon-1pm, when Allen Langdon from Recycle BC will provide an overview of the Recycle BC program, the first 100% Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program in North America where industry assumes full financial and managerial responsibility for the residential recycling system. In its three and a half years of existence, Recycle BC has reorganized the curbside collection program in British Columbia to a system where collection and sorting are based on whether the materials are 2-dimensional fibers or 3-dimensional containers and where all communities accept the same materials in their curbside programs. Recycle BC has also developed a post-collection system comprised of Receiving, Consolidation, and Transfer (RCT) Facilities and Pre-Conditioning Facilities (PCF) all feed into one Container Recovery Facility that can be upgraded and improved upon quickly, and by working with packaging manufacturers to plan for new packaging designs. Building on this system, Recycle BC is now focusing its efforts to improve and optimize the residential recycling systems within the context of shifting global markets and an increased emphasis on quality material.



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Welcome New Board & Advisory Council Members

NRC is pleased to announce the election of three new board members at its annual meeting in October. Beginning 2-year terms in January 2018 are, Brittney Albin, Sustainability Director, Lincoln Public Schools, (Lincoln, Nebr.), Kim Burge, Fundraising Coach (Valentine, Nebr.), and Larissa Binod, Environmental Educator (Kimball, Nebr.). Officers elected for 2018 are Danielle Easdale, president,

Craig Gubbels, vice president and secretary, and Marty Hager, treasurer.

Three existing board members were re-elected for 2-year terms: Anna Baum, Upper Loup NRD, (Mullen, Nebr.), Craig Gubbels, Integrated Recycling (Mead, Nebr.), and Frank Uhlarik, City of Lincoln (Lincoln, Nebr.). They will join Matt Ashmore, Eagle Printing (Lincoln, Nebr.), Danielle Easdale, Firststar Fiber (Omaha, Nebr.), Cliff Fleener, Valmont Industries (Valley, Nebr.), Marty Hager (Lincoln, Nebr.), Gene Hanlon, City of Lincoln (Lincoln, Nebr.), and Dan Warren, Aqua Systems (Lincoln, Nebr.).



We would also like to announce the appointment of fourteen professionals involved in recycling services to our new Advisory Council. The purpose of the Council is to help NRC with statewide policy and program development by identifying barriers to efficient and effective resource recovery. The first meeting is January 31st.

The Advisory Council's inaugural members are Jack Chappelle, Engineering Solutions & Design (Overland Park, Kan.), Dale Ekart, EcoCycle (Boulder, Colo.), Lori Erickson, MNIS-Oxford (Oxford, Nebr.), Kelly Flynn, Custer County Recycling (Broken Bow, Nebr.), Gene Hanlon, City of Lincoln (Lincoln, Nebr.), Andy Harpenau, Gretna Sanitation/Soil Dynamics (Gretna, Nebr.), Kent Holm, Douglas County Environmental Services (Omaha, Nebr.), Chelsea Johnson, Nebraska League of Conservation Voters (Lincoln, Nebr.), Dana Klabenes, City of Neligh (Neligh, Nebr.), Pasha Korber-Gonzalez, City of Alliance (Alliance, Nebr.), Kelley McReynolds, Mid-America Recycling (Lincoln, Nebr.), Benjamin Newton, Central Community College (Grand Island, Nebr.), Jane Polson, Keep Nebraska Beautiful (Lincoln, Nebr.), and Tamara Slater, Goodwill of Greater Nebraska (Grand Island, Nebr.).

Ex-officio members are Mark Brohman, Nebraska Environmental Trust; Dan Curran, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Julie Diegel, Nebraska Recycling Council; and Ruth Johnston, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

Webinars & Events

[One Province, One System: A Recycling Model Funded by Producers](#)

NRC 2018 Webinar Series | January 23, 12-1pm

[US Composting Council Conference and Trade Show](#)

USCC Conference and Trade Show | January 22-25, 2018 | Atlanta

[ISRI2018 Convention & Exposition](#)

Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries | April 14-19, 2018 | Las Vegas



Articles of Interest

[Hefty EnergyBag program - reflections on the first year](#)

Hefty EnergyBag program makes a national model in Omaha; it's saved 10 tons of materials from landfills, but is controversial.

[Shred Nations announces scholarship program](#)

NAID members and their families can receive up to \$5,000 through the program.

[Recycling Efforts Noticed at State Level](#)

Despite recycling challenges for smaller communities, Imperial is doing well.



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