



Member News

Nebraska Recycling Council loves to acknowledge accomplishments of our members! Kudos to three champions, below.

First Star Recycling

First Star Recycling, located in Omaha, is Nebraska's first and largest Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). In January, the company was awarded a \$2-million, below-market loan from The Closed Loop Fund to upgrade its equipment. The retrofit, to be installed in March and April, involves two optical sorters and bunkers that feed directly to an in-ground conveyor. The optical sorters will target clear HDPE and PET.

In a separate project, First Star replaced a screen for the separation of fiber and containers. This was needed before the optical sorters were installed. And in November 2016, they installed a robot for sorting clear HDPE. First Star Recycling was one of the first U.S. recycling facilities to use a robot with artificial intelligence.

"It's really bringing us into the 21st century in terms of our capabilities."

-Dale Gubbels, CEO

LPS RECYCLING FACTS

1.3 million pounds of material recycled annually.

810,000 pounds of waste diverted through composting in 41 school cafeterias.

4,000 tons of wood, metal, ceiling tiles, cardboard and concrete waste from construction sites. A 75% diversion rate is required on all LPS construction projects.

Lincoln Public Schools

In January the Lincoln Journal Star reported that Lincoln Public Schools was on track to divert more than half their waste from the landfill in 2018. Their long-running recycling program, managed by LPS Sustainability Coordinator, Brittney Albin since 2014, has expanded into composting. By 2019, they plan to have composting in all schools in the district.

LPS has won awards from the U.S. Department of Education, Keep Nebraska Beautiful and the Nebraska Recycling Council for their efforts.

Keep Keith County Beautiful/Western Resources Group

A collaborative partnership between Western Resources Group (WRG) and Keep Keith County Beautiful (KKCB) received the National First Place Award for Innovation-Partnership at the Keep America Beautiful national conference held in Dallas, Texas in January. Kurtis Olson, Plant Manager of WRG and Christine Vail, Executive Director of KKCB accepted the award.

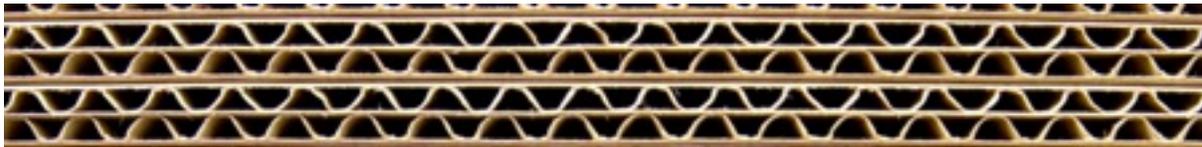
The Western Nebraska Regional Recycling Program began in July of 2016, through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. WRG, located in Ogallala, serves as the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and "Hub" in this "hub and spoke" system, involving Keep Kimball Beautiful, Keep Sidney Beautiful, Keep Alliance Beautiful and eight other nearby towns and villages, with plans for expansion. WRG compensates the "spokes" based on fair market value of the commodities, and is able to cover the cost of transportation through grants from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.



Do you have news you would like to share with our community of recycling champions? Please send us your story and we'll be sure to include it in a future newsletter.

Hey Lincolniters, recycle that cardboard!

On **April 1, 2018**, corrugated cardboard will **no longer be accepted** for disposal at Lincoln's landfill*. Corrugated cardboard (pictured below) is defined as three or more layers of paper with the middle layer rippled or corrugated.



Commercial recycling resources are available at recycle.lincoln.ne.gov. The City is here to support Lincoln and Lancaster County's commercial sector overcome recycling barriers and recycle its corrugated cardboard. Many new resources are available to your business, including [sector-specific recycling fact sheets](#), [grants](#), [an online recycling self-assessment](#), a [waste diversion calculator](#), a corrugated cardboard [FAQ](#), [multilingual materials](#) and more. Visit recycle.lincoln.ne.gov for recycling resources and share the website with your colleagues.

If your organization is already recycling corrugated cardboard, you are all set - thank you for your efforts to protect Nebraska's natural environment! If your company is recycling cardboard as part of a single-stream recycling program, you do **not** need a separate cardboard container.

If your business does not currently recycle corrugated cardboard, we encourage you to begin now - well in advance of the disposal ban - by taking your corrugated cardboard to the recycling bin instead of the garbage dumpster. The most convenient recycling option is to work with your garbage collector or a recycling collector to learn about their menu of collection services for garbage and recycling. They will work with your organization to set up efficient collection of garbage and recyclables. A listing of recycling collectors is available [online](#).

This is a great opportunity to start or expand your organization's recycling efforts. The City is offering [technical assistance](#) and a [cash rebate](#) to assist you in starting or expanding your recycling program. In addition, the City invites all organizations to join the [Recycle Lincoln Leadership Recognition Program](#) to enhance your company's reputation, earn special recognition and receive free publicity from the City.

If you have questions related to the corrugated cardboard disposal ban or the services available to your organization, email recycle@lincoln.ne.gov or call 402-441-8215.

If you would like to schedule a presentation to your group, please contact Louise I. Lynch at louise@carsoncglobal.com or call 914-443-5702.

LMC 8.32.040, Sect. C / Recyclable cardboard shall not be accepted by the City for disposal in the City's public sanitary landfills effective April 1, 2018. (**Clean and dry corrugated cardboard.)*



NAHMMA - Heartland Chapter Annual Workshop

Heartland Chapter Workshop

February 27-28
Omaha, NE
Training: ID of Unknowns
Tours, Networking & Annual Meeting

The North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA) - Heartland Chapter is hosting their annual household hazardous waste (HHW) workshop February 27-28 in Omaha with an optional tour of Lincoln's new Hazardous Materials Collection Center.

The workshop includes a chance to tour two of Nebraska's HHW facilities along with networking with HHW professionals from EPA Region 7 (IA, KS, MO, NE). The workshop training is "Identification of Unknown Chemicals" and will include hands-on training in identifying and testing unknown waste/chemicals. It is especially directed at organizations and public sector agencies that are managing household hazardous waste facilities and/or mobile collection events.

[TELL ME MORE](#)

2018 Recycling Cart Grants Available

[The Recycling Partnership](#) has released their 2018 Cart Grant Application!



- Funding \$7 per cart (up to \$500,000), plus \$1 per household for outreach (up to \$50,000).
- Counties, municipalities, tribes and solid waste authorities with 4,000+ households are eligible.
- Comes with technical assistance from Partnership staff and tailored educational materials for your community to keep after the grant process.
- If you've already filled out the prior online application, no need to start over - just send it on in!

APPLY

Webinars & Events

[Webinar: How to Track Waste & Materials in Portfolio Manager](#)

Wed, Feb 21 | 12 - 1 pm | [JOIN](#)

[Webinar: How to Beat Residential Recycling Contamination](#)

Thu, Feb 22 | 1 - 2:30 pm | [REGISTER](#)

[SLPS: Sustainable Leadership](#)

Thurs, Mar 1 | 3:30 - 4:30 pm | [JOIN](#)



Articles of Interest

[6 waste industry trends to watch in 2018](#)

China, franchising, technology, defining zero waste, tax reform, and the EPA

[My Summer Valentine](#)

"The Valentine's celebration is now in summer. It may be celebrated any day; or any days; or every day."

[Groups aim to advance fair repair and unlocking laws](#)

Industry advocates will be pushing government leaders at the state and federal level this year to approve legislation and regulations protecting consumer device repair and reuse.



Nebraska Recycling Council

402-436-2384

www.NRCNE.org

