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## Stats from the Earth Day CHaRM Event



On April 28th, Lincoln Earth Day, NRC held a collection of hard to recycle materials on Nebraska Innovation Campus, and here are the results of that day! 4 vendors, 16 volunteers, 2,480 lbs of shredded paper, 70 lbs of batteries, 510 lbs of clothing and household goods, and 10,200 lbs of electronics for a **total of 13,260 pounds recycled!** We are so thankful for the many people and organizations that helped make this event possible (Nebraska Innovation Campus, The Mill Coffee & Bistro, Super Saver, Nebraska Recycles, Lincoln Goodwill, Shredding Solutions, Interstate All Battery Center, Allo, and students from Southeast). And for those of you who brought your items to be reused and recycled - you're amazing!



## The giving has started!

No need to wait until it's officially Give to Lincoln Day. You can [give a gift to NRC today](#) or any day this month, and every donation we receive is made bigger by matching funds. Your donation can go that much further in supporting our work to...

Provide statewide recycling assistance and support. Maintain the most comprehensive Nebraska Recycling Guide. Distribute recycling equipment grants. Host important collection events, webinars, and Talk & Tours.

Small efforts can make a huge impact--just like a donation to Nebraska Recycling Council. Visit our page, learn more, and

support our work at [www.givetolincoln.com/nonprofits/nebraska-recycling-council](http://www.givetolincoln.com/nonprofits/nebraska-recycling-council).

Also, join us on this great day of giving at our **Open House** on May 31st! Stop by over the lunch hour from noon - 1:00 pm for some cake, coffee, and celebration. [RSVP on Facebook!](#)



Give Now!

## China Ban Continues to Vex Domestic Markets

It's a complex, global marketplace for recovered materials. While individual communities can't control market forces, it is wise to understand the underlying landscape. Partially excerpted from [Resource Recycling](#) magazine, here are some recent developments.

Recovered material prices have been volatile in recent times as [Chinese import changes](#) have developed. On May 3 China made another alarming announcement that it was [implementing a month-long shutdown of China Certification and Inspection Group's North American arm](#). This is expected to freeze U.S. scrap shipments to China over the coming weeks.



Old corrugated cardboard (OCC) prices had already taken a deep dive in preceding months, causing some materials recovery facilities to lose revenue and raise tipping fees. This has been a boon to domestic mills that use OCC to make containerboard, saving them millions, but the currently tight freight market has cut into those gains.

China's National Sword initiative has caused a glut of mixed paper in the U.S. Without China's absorption, this material commands little to no value. It is uncertain whether mills in North America will be able to take in enough mixed paper to compensate; however, at least one company has started making significant investments to start handling more. In the long term, demand for fiber packaging is expected to continue to grow, so the economic balance may be restored eventually.

In the plastics recycling sector, there have been recent reports of domestic reclaimers [adjusting to take in material](#) that was previously destined to China as well as news of [processors from China angling to open operations](#) in North America.

***NRC provides a huge discount for members who wish to monitor commodity prices of their recovered materials through [RecyclingMarkets.net](http://RecyclingMarkets.net). See [NRC membership benefits](#). For assistance with [RecyclingMarkets.net](http://RecyclingMarkets.net), call 1-330-956-8911 or email [cmb@recyclingmarkets.net](mailto:cmb@recyclingmarkets.net) and let Christina know you are a NRC member.***

## NRC Receives Grant from Nebraska Environmental Trust

NRC is happy to announce that we have received \$292,666 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the "Recycling Equipment Grants and Consultation" project. The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its meeting on April 5, 2018 in Lincoln. The project is one of the 105 projects receiving \$18,301,819 in grant awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust this year.

This year, the limit for individual equipment grants has

increased from \$15,000 to \$20,000 to account for inflation. We plan to continue with our consultation and information gathering efforts that began in the last grant cycle. New this cycle, we also plan to initiate a scoring matrix for grant applications that provides extra points for hub and spoke or collaborative recycling programs, and to track down equipment from previous years' equipment grants and record their location, usage and condition.



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## Webinars & Events



[The Science of Setting Credible Courageous Sustainability Goals](#)  
Webinar | May 22 | 10-11am

[Make Every Drop Count - Global Best Practices in Used Motor Oil Stewardship](#)  
Webinar | May 25 | 10-11:30am

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## Articles of Interest



[LEGO Commits to Sustainable Packaging](#)

*The billion-dollar toy company recently announced a goal of 100 percent sustainable packaging by 2025.*

[Recycle or Trash](#)

*With the leadership of guest speaker, Julie Diegel from Nebraska Recycling Council, students sorted a large bag of trash collected from Fairbury Public Schools.*

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