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## Stepping Up Recycling in St. Paul

This is the first in a new series of interviews with NRC members. The purpose is to provide insights into materials management programs and practices of member municipalities, businesses, and service providers.

Laura Berthelsen, employee of the City of St. Paul, was assigned the task of researching and making recommendations for the City's recycling program by the Mayor and City Council as Community Programs Coordinator. She tells the story of her journey [here](#).



[Read More](#)

## Rebates Available to Lincoln Organizations to Assist with Recycling Costs

Get up to \$750 in rebates to improve your recycling program.

Organizations across the City are recycling more than ever before. The City of Lincoln, through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Assistance Program, has funds available to businesses, institutions and non-profits to help offset the costs of starting or expanding a recycling program. Rebates up to \$750 are available to cover 50 percent of associated recycling costs. Improvements may include the purchase of new recycling bins and signs, development of educational materials and the first six months of recycling or compost collection service.

"I ran across the WRRAP rebate program while researching for a solution for our cardboard needs when the laws surrounding cardboard disposal changed. It made perfect sense for us as a solution. It has been a great benefit to our company." -- Larry A Harlow, Yankee Hill Brick

"It is such a great opportunity and incentive! It was so neat to see the Lincoln community come together this way and to work together for the betterment of our Earth." -- Shelby Beller, Gamma Phi Beta Sorority

Don't miss out on financial incentives to help your organization step up its game. Because getting the right assist helps you win.

A green-themed poster titled "BIG CHEERS to the Recycle Lincoln leaders". It features a grid of logos for various Lincoln-based organizations, including Arbor Day Foundation, Assurity Life Insurance Company, CARSON+CO GLOBAL, EMBASSY SUITES by MILTON, GAMMA PHI BETA, goodwill, HBE, HOUSE of FLOWERS, LINCOLN RUNNING, NeighborWorks LINCOLN, REGION V SYSTEMS, STAR CITY HEATING &amp; COOLING, the Painter, and ZIPLINE BREWING CO. At the bottom, it says "Is your business a recycling powerhouse? Apply at: recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/recognition" and "TAKE IT TO THE BIN" with a recycling bin icon.

Need help? In-person recycling advice is available. Doing a great job already? Earn public recognition in the Recycle Lincoln Leadership Recognition Program.

It's easy to apply. Go to [recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/wrrap](https://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/wrrap) and see what WRRAP can do for you.

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## New Year's Recycling Resolutions

As we reflect on the new year and set new intentions for personal growth, here are a few resolutions we recommend for cutting down on waste in 2019.

### Recycle Right

Review your recycling program guidelines and make sure that you're doing it right. Because wishful recycling, putting materials in your bin on the hope they'll be recycled but can't be (e.g. that Styrofoam container or overly greasy pizza box), is just as problematic as not recycling at all.



### Get Away from Single-Use Plastics

This is the year to finally kick that “bad plastics” habit! Make a commitment to refuse single-use plastics such as straws, bags, utensils, and water bottles, and find convenient, reliable ways to replace them. Put together a couple of zero waste kits with reusable containers, straws, shopping bags, and cups to have in the car, at work, and on-the-go so you're never without a better alternative.

### Avoid Fast Fashion

Fast fashion is particularly bad for the environment due to the focus on quick turnaround and low cost. This year, try to buy only what you need and choose high quality materials and timeless styles. Make sure you sell or donate your unwanted clothing, even if it is unwearable - there are several organizations that will take your old, ratty clothing and textiles (e.g. [Goodwill](#)). Try a clothing swap with friends or take a trip to a thrift store to keep the cycle going!

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## Municipal Composting for Nebraska?

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, aka the Farm Bill, was approved by the House of Representatives on Dec. 12 in a 369-47 vote and by the Senate on Dec. 11 with a 87-13 vote.

Inside the bill are provisions related to composting and food waste reduction. Of particular interest to municipalities is a provision that directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture to launch grant-funded programs to develop and implement municipal composting plans and food waste reduction plans. Eligible projects must also increase access to compost for agricultural producers. It allocates \$25 million/year for pilot projects in at least 10 states.



Another program will establish an “Interagency Biogas Opportunities Task Force” to focus on policies, programs and research to accelerate the growth of biogas systems. Additionally, one million dollars will be allocated for a “Carbon Utilization and Biogas Education Program” partially focused on agricultural “opportunities for aggregation of organic waste from multiple sources into a single biogas system.”

NRC will be watching this closely and reporting on developments as they arise.

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## Webinars & Events



### Omaha Spring Cleanup Registration

Registration closes January 19th | [More Info](#) | [REGISTER](#)

### SWANApalooza

February 25-28, 2019 | Boston, MA | [REGISTER](#)

### Plastics Recycling Conference 2019

March 11-13, 2019 | Gaylord National | [REGISTER](#)

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## Articles of Interest



### [100-plus households took part in 2018 hazardous waste disposal](#)

*Recycling numbers in Cass County this year were mainly consistent with those in 2017, though for some materials the interest may be picking up.*

### [Want to combat plastic straw waste? Consider rewiring consumer psychology.](#)

*The global plastic backlash has elevated straws to a curious place in public discourse.*

### [Dow and Keep America Beautiful Announce 2018 Hefty® EnergyBag® Grant Recipients](#)

*The \$40,000 grant awarded to help establish a full-scale Hefty® EnergyBag® program in Lincoln, represents yet another community to launch in Nebraska.*

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