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December 2014 Newsletter



WasteCap Awarded Grant for Zero Waste Events!

CAN'd Aid and Ball Foundation recently awarded grant funding to WasteCap Nebraska for zero waste event planning and equipment. With these funds, WasteCap will purchase 10 "Zero Hero" recycling stations and develop marketing and outreach materials. WasteCap staff will offer a range of services associated with zero waste events, from simple rental of recycling stations to zero waste event planning and coordination of service providers.



Contact Ilonka Zlatar Ryan at 402-436-2384 x1005 or izlatarryan@wastecapne.org to learn more about planning your zero waste event in 2015.

zero waste

COMMUNITY ROADMAP

We're Wasting What?! Zero Waste Economics

Nebraska's landfills are stuffed with products "designed" for the dump. Products today are made to be used once and thrown out.

One Zero Waste goal is to have producers and manufacturers design their products so that they can be easily recycled or reused. We can ensure efficient use of these products by having a good recycling system in place, and by buying durable goods that can be recycled or reused.

Recycling discarded products into new ones has a double environmental benefit. First, it reduces

the impacts of landfilling. Second, it lessens the need for harvesting or mining virgin raw materials. About 75% of producers will face a scarcity of materials in the next 10 years. Many businesses like Walmart are making large investments into recycling, *because they think it will be the best way to ensure that goods are available for their customers.*

Recycling can help local economies in several ways:

- Reducing what goes to the landfill can save thousands in tipping fees. Nebraskans throw away about 2 million tons of garbage annually; if only half were recycled, we could save \$45 million dollars in landfill fees and significantly extend the life of the landfills
- Sorted materials can be sold. Nebraskan throw away \$137 million-worth of recyclables every year.
- Recycling creates at least 10 times more jobs than landfilling. There are local jobs to sort, bale, transport and sell recycling. Currently, about 1,000 Nebraskans have recycling jobs.
- Local and cheap recycled materials can fuel new industries. In Nebraska, Sandhill Plastics in Kearney and Spotanski Plastics in Hazard are making products from 100% recycled plastics.

To learn more, and to see additional Zero Waste Spotlights visit www.wastecapne.org.

On-Site Waste Reviews Free for WasteCap Members

How long has it been since your organization took a dedicated look at its waste streams, practices and infrastructure? The universe of materials management is changing rapidly as many businesses are moving toward zero waste. WasteCap can provide business solutions for controlling waste management costs through vendor selection, service optimization, prevention and diversion.



On-site Waste Reviews are free for WasteCap member businesses. Staff will gather information, visit your site and provide a written report with recommendations. We are now booking on-site reviews for 2015. Our goal is zero waste. What's yours?

To schedule an On-site Waste Review, contact Julie Diegel at 402-436-2384 x1001 or jdiegel@wastecapne.org. To learn more, click [here](#).

January Green Team Roundtable Provides Tour of Cross Training Center's Expanded Operations

Cross Training Center will host WasteCap Nebraska's January 14 Green Team Roundtable at their headquarters, 5030 N. 72nd Street in Omaha. The meeting runs from 11:30am to 1:00 pm and includes a zero-waste lunch. To register, visit www.wastecapne.org/greenteams/.

Cross Training Center is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower and equip

disadvantaged and undereducated men and women through character development, vocational training and job experience. They serve people who have been incarcerated, homeless, involved in gangs or substance abuse, victims of human trafficking or living in poverty to help them become self-sufficient and successful. CTC program participants learn to recycle and refurbish electronics, automobiles and appliances. CTC sells quality refurbished computers at a low price, automobiles that have been inspected and detailed, low-priced appliances and other household goods for those in need.



New to WasteCap Website: Member Spotlights

Stay up-to-date with the newest members of WasteCap Nebraska and learn more about them at <http://www.wastecapne.org/category/membership-spotlights/>. To become a member or for more information visit www.wastecapne.org.



WasteCap Nebraska
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