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## July 2015 EcoFacts



### Zero Waste Policies: Universal Recycling

Universal recycling means that access to recycling and waste diversion is conveniently available at home, at work, on the streets and at businesses. With all the benefits of recycling, it's no wonder that it's an integral part of a Zero Waste community.

Nebraskans care about how waste affects human health, wildlife, and our air, land and water. A recycling program can be thought of as a "jobs, energy, water and environmental protection program", all rolled into one. By recycling, we reduce not only the trash entering the landfill, but we are putting raw materials back into production, and reducing the extraction of raw materials. Unfortunately, the recycling rate in the US has plateaued since 2010 at around 34%, according to the EPA. It's time for our leaders to step up once again and get recycling back on the agenda.

What you can do:

It takes a commitment from local government, neighborhood associations, and businesses to build the infrastructure needed for universal recycling. No matter where you live or work, [get involved](#) to promote recycling everywhere you go. Let businesses know that you notice if they don't recycle. They care about your opinion. [Use these cards!](#)



**Policy:**

In June of 2012, Act 148, a landmark universal recycling law was passed by the Vermont Legislature. Among other things the law bans recyclables from the landfill and requires a phased-in ban on leaf and yard debris, food scraps and clean wood from the landfill. The goal of this law is to increase diversion of valuable materials from the waste stream and provide convenient and consistent recycling and disposal options to Vermont residents and businesses. **All haulers who provide trash collection will eventually be required to offer collection of recyclables, leaf and yard debris, and food scraps, or to sub-contract with another hauler to provide these services to their customers.**

Visit [www.wastecapne.org](http://www.wastecapne.org) for all your recycling needs.



WasteCap Nebraska  
402-436-2384  
[www.WasteCapNE.org](http://www.WasteCapNE.org)



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