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April 2015 Newsletter



April 17 Green Team Roundtable Features Waste Sort Demo at Morrissey Engineering

Morrissey Engineering, Inc. will host WasteCap Nebraska's April 17 Green Team Roundtable at their headquarters, 4940 N. 118th Street in Omaha. The meeting begins at 11:30am with a zero-waste lunch catered by Big Green Tomato, and a brief explanation on the methodology of using a waste sort to calculate a waste/recycling baseline. Following that, participants will go outside for a hands-on demonstration of the waste sort. Volunteers are needed to assist with the sort. Contact Julie Diegel if interested at jdiegel@wastecapne.org.

To register for the event, visit www.wastecapne.org/greenteams/. The registration deadline is April 13 at 4:00 pm. Cost is \$12 or \$10 for WasteCap Nebraska, Green Omaha Coalition and USGBC Flatwater Chapter members.



Why Waste? A Guide to Source Reduction

The most effective way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place. Manufacturing new products requires a lot of materials, energy and water. "Reduce" and "reuse" come before recycle

because it still takes energy to transport and recycle your stuff. Reduce means much more than taking your own bag to the store. There are many facets to waste reduction. How many of these steps do you already take?

- Try to not buy more than what you really need
- Rent or lease equipment that's used infrequently
- Purchase used or refurbished instead of new
- Buy more durable products, stay away from disposables
- Avoid toxic materials
- Buy products that are reusable, refillable or returnable
- Buy in bulk, or choose items with less packaging, or with recyclable packaging
- Compost yard and food waste, leave grass clippings on the lawn
- Donate items instead of tossing them. Clothing that can't be sold is often bid out to textile traders and can still make money for the charity.
- Reduce junk mail by calling the number on ad mailers, unsubscribing from unwanted catalogs and credit offers at www.dmachoice.org and www.optoutprescreen.com
- Don't print unless it's necessary, and if you must, choose double sided
- Bring your reusable cup, bottle and silverware to work
- Bring a food container when you go out to eat and skip the to-go box
- Repair your appliances and clothing
- Demand environmentally friendly products from your supplier
- Prioritize using food that is closest to expiration

Try some of these ideas at home to do your part in reducing waste.

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

Recycling Equipment Grants Available for 2015-16

The Nebraska State Recycling Association (NSRA) has grant funds available for municipalities, other government entities, non-profits and recycling companies (for example, waste haulers) who wish to purchase recycling equipment. Interested parties should go to www.recyclenebraska.org and call Deb Rost at 402-933-3059 in Omaha for more information.

Grants can help fund the purchase of recycling trailers, semi trailers, carts, dumpsters, balers, forklifts, trucks and more. Equipment may be new, used or in need of refurbishing. In some cases, applicant's existing equipment can be refurbished with this grant. Grants will be awarded until the funds are depleted. This is a quick-turnaround program where application-to-approval is usually completed in approximately a month.

This grant is one of 113 projects that will receive \$19.4 million in grant awards from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Trust has awarded more than \$233 million to over 1,700 natural resource projects in Nebraska since 1993, and the grants are funded by proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery.

The Nebraska State Recycling Association is a membership organization of public and private organizations as well as citizens, and has been a recycling advocate for Nebraska since 1980.



It's Not Too Late To Donate!

Show your Mother (Earth) some LOVE by supporting a new service of WasteCap Nebraska. It's called [goZERO](#), a service for event organizers that want to reduce the impacts of their events to reach ZERO WASTE.



Help us "Celebrate Our Better Nature" by donating during the month of April (in honor of Earth Day) to bring Zero Waste Events to your community or organization. Your donation is tax-deductible, and for each level of donation, you will receive a gift! To Donate Now: <http://www.wastecapne.org/show-your-mother-some-love/>.

To see our goZERO tents inaction, visit Lincoln Earth Day on Saturday, April 18 at Union Plaza.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GHS Hazard Communication Training and GHS Hazard Communication Train-the-Trainer

Saturday, April 15, 2015, starting at 9:00 am. For more information: <https://www.nesafetycouncil.org/index.php/training-courses-and-conferences/training-courses/27-workplace-safety/nebraska-training-courses/763-ghs-seminar-a-hazard-communication-standard-update>

USGBC NFC Earth Week Party: Film Screening and Town Hall

Thursday, April 23, 2015, starting at 5:00 pm. For more information: <http://www.usgbcne.org/>

Earth Day 2015

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Earth Day Celebrations:
April 18th Lincoln at Union Plaza
April 18th Omaha at Elmwood Park
April 26th Bellevue at Lied Activity Center

WasteCap Nebraska will also be celebrating Earth Day at Union Pacific headquarters in Omaha on April 16, and Doane College in Crete on April 22.

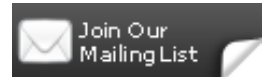
ANNOUNCEMENTS

2014-2015 Sustainable Leadership Presentation Series Recordings on Youtube

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9Pllkxhogg4eVpLNPI5ljAFNoy4WZm_H



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