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January 2015 Newsletter



Sustainability Leadership Presentation Series
Empowering leaders for a sustainable future

The Alaska Bellwether: Perception, Response, and Adaptation in a Time of Climate Change

Global climate change is causing rapid ecosystem change in Alaska. How local communities respond to this challenge now and in the future will have great bearing on whether these communities can continue to thrive in an era of climate change.

Watch this free webinar online via livestream, Thursday, February 5, from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm, for a presentation by Alaska expert Jim Powell as he unpacks the tangle of on the ground ecosystem conditions, local perceptions of the issue, and climate change mitigation strategies and adaptation plans being developed. Together we will consider the implications of a changing planet and the significance of the Alaska experience as related to our unique conditions in Nebraska.

For more information and to connect to the live stream: <http://www.mccneb.edu/cps/green/slps.asp>

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.

LES Announces New Wind, Solar

Lincoln Electric System has finalized power purchase agreements to add 173 megawatts of wind energy and 5 megawatts of solar photovoltaic energy to its power supply resource portfolio by 2016. These projects will increase the utility's equivalent renewable generation portfolio to 48 percent of LES' retail energy.



Mayor Chris Beutler and Kevin Wailes, Administrator & CEO of Lincoln Electric System, announced this as one of the most aggressive renewable energy portfolios in the region.

In addition to being environmentally friendly, the projects will also save customers money. "When viewed as a package, our wind and solar contracts are expected to save LES customer-owners approximately \$429 million over the next 25 years," said Wailes.

For more information visit: <http://members.questline.com/article.aspx?articleID=31258&accountID=1115>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Electronics Recycling Event

Nebraska Recycles is hosting an Electronics Recycling Event from 9 am to 1 pm at the Gateway Mall on Saturday, January 24th. Recycle all your electronics that were replaced over Christmas! For more information visit: <http://www.nebraskarecycles.com/>

Renewable Energy Project Development

Sustainable City Network and Gundersen Envision are offering an online training series beginning Tuesday, February 10th. Businesses who want to learn about what it takes to develop your own renewable energy portfolio and see renewable energy projects in action can find out more information at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/renewable-energy-project-development-registration-14699228789?utm_campaign=410aa8447a-UpcomingWebinars_Text_1-5-15&utm_medium=email&utm_source=SCN+InBox+e-Newsletter&utm_term=0_11e7ac761c-410aa8447a-188728861.188728861.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

FBG Service Corporation announces Guy Robarage Earns Designation as 'ISSA Certification Expert'

Guy Robarage, District Manager for FBG Services in Lincoln, Neb., has achieved the ISSA Cleaning Industry Management Standard (CIMS) "ISSA Certification Expert" (I.C.E.) designation after successfully completing specialized training and testing requirements. His official credentials are for both CIMS I.C.E. and CIMS-Green Building I.C.E. certifications.

"The I.C.E. certification covers a range of proven management processes and procedures that comply with the leading standards and best practices for our industry," Robarage explained. "The certification represents a commitment to excellence and quality services that are customer-driven. And the Green Building component demonstrates expertise in sustainable cleaning programs." Congratulations Guy Robarage!

Union Pacific has Two Internship Positions Open in the Environmental Division

Summer Internship on Waste:

<https://up.jobs/job/opening/Summer%20Intern%20Environmental/Omaha/NE/076711?>

[jsl=13981032](#)

Year Round Internship on Engagement:

<https://up.jobs/job/opening/Year%20Round%20Intern%20-%20Environmental/Omaha/NE/076718?jsl=13981477>

Both positions show a closing date of March 1, but applicants are encouraged to apply early as the jobs may be removed or filled as soon as there are sufficient applicants. Be sure to mention you heard about the position opening from WasteCap Nebraska!



WasteCap Nebraska
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www.WasteCapNE.org



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