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March 2015 Newsletter



Congratulations Julie Diegel!

WasteCap Nebraska is proud to announce that staff member, Julie Diegel was presented an award by *Open for Business* magazine for an article she wrote in 2014. Her article, "Nebraska Embracing Business as a Force for Good" earned the most votes from their readership to win "The Resourceful Award". This award is for an article that "sheds light on information that is helpful to business people and ignites a light bulb, prompting the reader to learn more". *Open for Business* is headquartered in Hastings, NE, and is in its second year of publication.



zero waste

COMMUNITY ROADMAP

The Recycling Revolution

Communities across Nebraska and Cities through the U.S. and the world are adopting Zero Waste plans to drastically reduce what ends up in their landfills. They understand that after Reduce and Reuse, Recycling is one of the most important parts of a Zero Waste plan.

Recycling has been around for a long time. It has always made sense to use materials again rather than having to find new ones. It is only in recent years, since the costs of making stuff has become very low, that we have forgotten our long held American values of thriftiness and efficiency.

Concerns about how much trash we produce, and what to do with it all, have fueled the recycling

market in the U.S. Over the last 20 years, the national recycling rate has more than doubled, and now sits around 35%. We lag behind Germany and Austria who recycle over 60% of their discards. New sorting technologies are making recycling more efficient. Recycling facilities can now take more materials with less labor.

Manufacturers are finding new uses for recycled stock. It takes much less energy, and water, to make a product from recycled materials than from virgin stock, and it's less expensive. It's also better to recycle stuff into higher value products, like Spotaski Plastics in Nebraska, which makes plastic fence posts from milk jugs. This "upcycling" is preferred to "downcycling", in which the end product holds less value, like crushing glass into sand. By recycling materials into their highest possible use, like making old bottles into new ones, we can keep those materials out of the landfill longer.

According to the EPA, one of the best things we can do for people and the planet is to recycle. We can think of recycling as a "homegrown jobs, environmental and water program" all in one.

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

Building Better Communities Webinar Series Begins March 26

"**Building Better Communities**" is a new webinar series, sponsored by Lindsay Corporation that will be of interest to business and community leaders. Facilitated by WasteCap Nebraska, the series kicks off on March 26 with a webinar on how to plan greener neighborhood cleanup events, presented by Kim Sosalla-Bahr, Sustainable Design Project Manager at HDR in Omaha. Most webinars will begin at 12:30 p.m. and last for one hour. To register for the March webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2204654219657057538>.

Look for registration links to each webinar in our future emails.

- March 26- **Greener Neighborhood Cleanups** with Kim Sosalla-Bahr of HDR
- April 30- **Zero Waste Events** with Dan Warren of Aqua Systems and Ilonka Zlatar-Ryan of GoZero, WasteCap
- May 28- **Business Composting** with Kim Sosalla-Bahr of HDR and Adam Sagert of WeCompost
- June 25- **Glass Recycling for Communities** with Michelle Goth of Ripple Glass
- August 27- **Zero Waste Business Certification Standards** with Stephanie Barger, executive director of the US Zero Waste Business Council
- September 24- **Waste Wise and ReTRAC for Medium-sized Businesses** with Jennifer Dawani of the US EPA and a Waste Wise partner
- October 29- **Wastefinder App for Solid and Hazardous WasteManagement** with Evelyn Bartlett, CEO of Sector Now
- November 19- **Composting for Grocery Stores** with Russ's Market and Jacob Hickey of Prairieland Dairy
- December 10- **Community Composting** with Ilonka Zlatar-Ryan of WasteCap Nebraska and community partners



Community Composting Training

WasteCap received a Public Information and Education grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to fund our **advanced composter training** starting July. The goal is to train community-level composters, for low-tech composting that does not rely on big equipment, but is larger in scale than a backyard operation. We are focusing on community gardeners and small scale vegetable farms around the Lincoln area.



WasteCap teamed up with the [Institute for Local Self Reliance](#) out of D.C. They have collected information about composter certification programs from around the country, and have created with a training manual that draws lessons of the best programs. We have partnered with Community CROPS and the Nebraska Extension office for co-organizing and teaching. The course includes 30 hours of classroom and field instruction, a bin build, and demonstrated ability to keep a pile for several months after the course ends in order to receive certification. Class size is limited, so participants must have access to a community-level pile site and have the ability to teach others.

For questions, contact Ilonka Zlatar Ryan at izlatarryan@wastecapne.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Recycling Coalition; Carbon Credit Markets for Recycled Materials Free Webinar

Tuesday March 17, 2015, from 1:30 - 2:45PM EDT featuring Scott Subler, President and Co-founder, Environmental Credit Corporation (ECC). To register <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/116458956;jsessionid=abc-R6CNrhoubbKC1ycVuhttps://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/116458666>

Earth Day 2015

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Earth Day Celebrations:

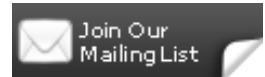
April 18th; Lincoln at Union Plaza

April 18th; Omaha at Elmwood Park

April 26th; Bellevue at Lied Activity Center



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