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March 2015 Newsletter



Zero Waste Events Webinar from the "Building Better Communities" series

Thursday, April 30th from 12:30 to 1:30 pm

Learn how to make your next event Zero Waste! With proper planning and supplies, you can divert over 90% of materials away from the landfill by reducing, recycling and composting. This webinar will guide your thinking through waste reduction, donation, communicating with vendors and exhibitors, calculating diversion rates and how to get help and supplies.

Our friends at Springo will tell you about their mobile hydration trailers that eliminate the need for bottled water. To register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9148835409356508162>.



This webinar is funded partially by a grant from NDEQ and sponsored by Lindsay Corporation.

zero waste

COMMUNITY ROADMAP

Crucial Compost

More than half of what ends up in the landfill is organic material. Organics including paper products, food, wood and vegetation can instead be composted. Sending compostable materials to the landfill creates toxic leachates that can infect groundwater. It also creates gases that are harmful to people and nature.

Making new landfills can cost over \$1 million per acre to site and build. Many landfills are owned

and operated by local governments. Tax dollars fund the landfill, and will fund pollution cleanups from them for decades. Over half of the Superfund budget goes to cleaning up landfill contamination.

We spend millions so we can bury organic matter in the ground, while soil depletion is rampant across the country. Each time a crop grows and is removed from the land, the organic matter in the plants is taken from the soil. Over 40% of the food produced in the U.S. is never consumed. Most of it ends up in landfills. Composting is a way to put that organic matter back onto the soil.

Composting is the process of decomposing organic material like food, plants and paper, into a soil amendment that increases beneficial organisms, humus, tilth, aeration, water-holding capacity, and crop yields; while reducing plant pathogens and the need for chemical fertilizers. Quality compost needs the right balance of brown and green (C:N ratio), and adding food waste to yard composting greatly increases its value.

Nebraska's ban on yard waste created several composting facilities around the state. With proper training, equipment and infrastructure, these facilities could integrate food scraps and paper that can't be recycled into the mix. Diverting these materials would reduce landfill volumes by 30% and would reduce the need for new landfills.

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

Building Better Communities **WasteCap Nebraska webinar series 2015**

Visit www.wastecapne.org for registration information

All webinars are one hour long and begin at 12:30 p.m.

- March 26 **Greener Neighborhood Cleanups** with Kim Sosalla-Bahr of HDR. Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2204654219657057538>.

- April 30 **Zero Waste Events** with Dan Warren of Aqua Systems and Ilonka Zlatar-Ryan of WasteCap Nebraska's GoZero. Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9148835409356508162>

- 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 **Using Wastefinder App for Solid and Hazardous Waste Management** with Evelyn Bartlett, CEO of Sector Now

November 19 **Composting for Grocery Stores** with Patrick Ridder of Russ's Market and Jacob Hickey of Prairieland Dairy

December 10 **Community Composting** with Ilonka Zlatar-Ryan of WasteCap Nebraska and community partners



Show Your Mother Some LOVE

Earth Day is right around the corner! Show your Mother 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/>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

God, Creation & Climate Conference

Saturday March 21, 2015, from 8:30 - 1:00 pm, Mammel Hall, 6708 Pine St., Omaha, NE, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Richard Miller, Associate Professor of Theology at Creighton University and author of *God, Creation and Climate Change: A Catholic Response to the Environmental Crisis*. To register: God-Creation-Climate.eventbrite.com.

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](#)

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

Midwest Environmental Compliance Conference

Overland park Convention Center, Kansas, May 13-14, 2015. For more information:

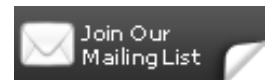
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