

**KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL** We are proud to be an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and Keep Nebraska Beautiful.



Quarterly Newsletter  
Winter 2015  
Issue #5

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The mission of Keep Cass County Beautiful is to educate, enable and encourage all Cass County residents to take greater responsibility for enhancing their community environment.

#### KCCB Board of Directors

John Baroni, President  
Mindy Rush-Chipman, Vice Pres.  
Richard Yoder, Secretary  
Mitch Pearrow, Treasurer  
Roger Behrns & Terry Lorensen  
Linda Behrns, Executive Director

**Presentations:** If you would like to have a speaker for your school, church or organization about litter prevention, recycling or beautification, please contact us.

**Financing** provided through the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the generosity of our donors and members. KCCB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



Close the loop...Buy recycled!



KCCB participates in the following Keep America Beautiful and Keep Nebraska Beautiful programs:

- Great American Cleanup
- America Recycles Day
- Cigarette Litter Prevention Program
- Waste in Place
- National Planting Day
- Litter Free School Zones
- Litter Hotline
- Earth Day
- Grow Big Red

## America Recycles Day Electronics Collection



Jason Heard, Louisville, (on rt.), recycles electronics at the first Keep Cass County Beautiful Electronics Recycling Collection held in Louisville on November 7. The collection, available to all Cass County residents, was held in conjunction with the Louisville fall cleanup. The event was one of many across the country promoting America Recycles Day, a Keep America Beautiful initiative. America Recycles Day is celebrated annually across the nation on or near November 15 with a variety of recycling events and recycling education in the month of November.

American Recycling Company from Lincoln helped KCCB collect 181 various electronic items that filled a small truck. Thirty-eight people from the communities of Alvo, Louisville, Manley, Murdock, Murray and Plattsmouth took advantage of the collection. If you missed the event, look for other local recycling opportunities on our website at [KeepCassCountyBeautiful.org](http://KeepCassCountyBeautiful.org). Thanks to all recyclers who participated and diverted electronics from the landfill. We hope to add more collections in other communities in the future.

## County Household Hazardous Waste Results

The results have been tabulated for the three county HHW collections that took place on August 14 at Wiles Bros., Plattsmouth; the Cass County Fairgrounds, Weeping Water; and Midwest CO-OP in Eagle. A total of 161 households participated with the help of 30 volunteers assisting the trained team from Red Willow County. Here are totals collected: Paint - 6,640 pounds, Pesticides - 1,140 pounds, acids bases - 30 pounds, Oil - 270 gallons, Round-Up - 3.5 gallons, Anti-freeze - 25 gallons, Recyclables - 260 pounds, 2-4D - 20 gal., Florescent bulbs - 275, Batteries -15. **Total = 11,038 Pounds**

## KCCB Membership Drive

Thank you to all of you who have supported Keep Cass County Beautiful with a membership during the past year. We receive no tax dollars and rely on funding provided by memberships, donations, other grants, and the NDEQ Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program, which fluctuates from year to year. It's our goal to become less dependent on NDEQ grant funding.

### Why become a member?

All members receive personal invitations to the annual KCCB Volunteer/ Member Appreciation event, household hazardous waste events, electronic and used tire collections and other special events held during the year. Corporate sponsors receive free advertising in our newsletters and on our website. Members are welcome to attend monthly board meetings, but it's not required.

If you'd like to support what we do, please consider making a donation, or becoming a member or renewing your membership for 2016. Our new on-line membership form and DONATE button on our website makes any amount of giving easy. We also welcome volunteers who take pride in a clean, green and beautiful community.

Our suggested categories of a one year membership are ...

- Diamond .....\$500 or more
- Platinum .....\$150
- Gold.....\$100
- Silver.....\$50
- Individual.....\$20

The on-line membership form can be found on our webpage at [www.keepcasscountybeautiful.org](http://www.keepcasscountybeautiful.org).

### Or checks payable and return to ...

Keep Cass County Beautiful,  
513 Vine Street,  
Louisville, NE 68037

**Thank you for your generosity!**

## Input Needed for New County Waste Plan

Please help new project manager, Danielle Easdale, collect information to update and revise the 1994 Cass County Waste Plan. The end plan will provide recommendations to the county and communities to mitigate disposal costs and increase economic benefits and opportunities through better utilizing wasted resources.

It will only take a few minutes to answer 9 very short survey questions that will help shape the new plan. You may choose from three different surveys at the following links: **Cass County Residents Waste & Recycling Survey** at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SFTVMV7>

**Cass County Business, Commercial and Industrial Waste & Recycling Survey** at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SB7GJJ2>

**Cass County Farming & Agricultural Waste & Recycling Survey** at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q25L9NT>

If you have any questions, contact Danielle at 402-212-5773 or [danielleeasdale@gmail.com](mailto:danielleeasdale@gmail.com)



## KCCB Joins Litter Hotline

With the help of DEQ and the Nebraska Department of Roads, KCCB has installed nine REPORT LITTERING signs across Cass County. The signs serve as a reminder to raise awareness about not littering.

When you see litter coming from a vehicle, write down the license plate number, description of vehicle, location, date and time of the occurrence. Then call the number at the left and report the littering information to Keep Nebraska Beautiful. KNB will forward the information to the Cass County Sheriff's office. A letter and litterbag will be sent to the offender stating the potential dangers and expense of litter along with a reminder that littering is a crime and carries a maximum fine of up to \$1,000.

## Keep Your Caps On and other tips

Did you know that you should recycle all plastic bottles with the caps on? According to the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers, the cap has more value than the rest of the bottle and caps are more likely to reach the recycler if they are kept on the container. Just rinse the container and don't flatten it because it could get caught in the sorting equipment.



**Other tips:** Can you recycle plastic bottles with pumps? Most recyclers will only recycle the bottle, but not the pump as some contain metals.

Are you recycling in the bathroom? Plastic bottles containing liquid soap, shampoo and conditioners, lotion, mouthwash, and baby powder can all be recycled as well as paperboard items: toilet paper tubes, bandage boxes, soap boxes, tissue boxes and empty aerosol cans. Not recyclable: dental floss containers, toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes and pumps. Go to our website "Recycling Info" tab for additional information.



## KCCB Hosts NCEA Forum

Anne McCollister, co-founder of the Nebraska Community Energy Alliance (NCEA), provided a short informational meeting for the public on December 2 at the Louisville Senior Center.

Purpose of the forum was to explain how communities in Cass County could benefit from joining NCEA's statewide effort to build an electric vehicle charging network. The NCEA was organized in 2014 by nine municipalities as an inter-local cooperative agency to build and promote advanced technologies in transportation and housing that save energy, reduce CO2 and cut costs. NCEA has since grown to include 22 members, and its first project earned top honors in 2014 funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to demonstrate the economic and air quality benefits of electric and compressed natural gas vehicles.

Ms. McCollister also provided information about the NCEA organization, future plans, and opportunities for infrastructure funding for communities in Cass County.

## KCCB Receives Grants for 2016

We are pleased to announce that Keep Cass County Beautiful will be awarded a \$37,887 grant for public education and a \$1,578 grant for litter cleanups from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's Litter Reduction & Recycling Grants Program. This year DEQ changed the procedure for distributing funding. Organizations file a quarterly report and must have enough non-grant funds on hand to pay all expenses and then receive reimbursement for expenditures in the next quarter. The reimbursement process is slow and sometimes takes as long as 8 - 12 weeks to receive. So now more than ever, we really need your support with donations and memberships to help us continue to fund our many projects.



## Guest Reader Program

Louisville elementary students learned facts about recycling through the "Guest Reader Library Program" during the month of November. A total of 260 students heard a story, then signed a Pledge to Recycle card, received an America Recycles Day sticker and a KCCB recycled newspaper pencil.

Extra food, bags, packaging, wrapping paper, bows and ribbons all add up to an additional 1 million tons to our landfills. There are many simple ways to "green" your holiday season by reducing, recycling, and reusing. Check out EPA's tips for Greening the Season! <http://www3.epa.gov/region9/waste/recycling/index.html>

**The Most Wasteful Time of Year**  
During the holidays American households generate  
**25% more waste.**  
That's enough to fill  
**140,000 garbage trucks**  
every week between Thanksgiving and the New Year.

## Thanks to our 2015 Corporate Sponsors and Nebraska DEQ

Ash Grove Cement Company

James A. McKnight, D.D.S.

John's Appliance

Leibman Financial Services

Oxbow Animal Health

Plantman Nursery

Papillion Sanitation

Soil Dynamics

Village of Cedar Creek