



## A Message from Director Jim Macy

NDEQ is pleased to offer this report on our activities this past year. Thank you for being good stewards of our resources and using the services we offer in the best possible way to "Grow Nebraska".



# Annual Report Land Management Division Land Planning and Aid Section

## Planning and Aid Section

The Land Management Division's Planning and Aid Section administers the following programs: the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program (including the Scrap Tire Grants and Deconstruction of Abandoned Buildings Grant Program), the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program, the Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program, and the Landfill Disposal Fee Rebate Program.

## Solid Waste Management Program Study Now Available

LB 1101, passed in 2016, directed the Department of Environmental Quality to conduct a study to examine the status of recycling and solid waste management programs operated by the department and make recommendations to modernize and revise such programs.

The study can be found at: <http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/SWMS>

Recommendations include:

- Merge the Department's Grant Programs
- Assess Data and Information Needs
- Prioritize Solid Waste Management Needs
- Expand Educational and Outreach Opportunities
- Evaluate the Department's Expertise
- Strengthen State Agency Opportunities

There are several primary recommendations made as a result of this study. NDEQ will also follow-up on a number of suggestions that have been received. In some instances, related action has already been initiated. For example, NDEQ has sent all permitted landfills guidance on how to handle used oil. NDEQ has also initiated planning for a solid waste management workshop to be held in the panhandle area sometime in the first half of 2018. With regards to final recommendations, NDEQ is developing an implementation plan, which, when final, will be placed on the NDEQ website.

LB1101 2016

LB1101 2016

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1101**

Approved by the Governor April 07, 2016

Introduced by Mello, S; Haar, 21; Kolowski, 31; Schiltz, 47.

A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Department of Environmental Quality; to amend sections 81-15,158.01 and 81-15,160, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to require a study to examine the status of solid waste management programs; to create an advisory committee; to require reports; to provide for costs; to eliminate obsolete provisions; to harmonize provisions; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 81-15,158.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,158.01 Sections 81-15,158.01 to 81-15,165 and section 2 of this act shall be known and may be cited as the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Act.

Sec. 2. (1) The Department of Environmental Quality shall conduct a study to examine the status of solid waste management programs operated by the department and make recommendations to modernize and revise such programs. The study shall include, but not be limited to: (a) whether existing state programs regarding litter and waste reduction and recycling should be amended or revised; (b) a needs assessment of the recycling and composting programs in the state, including the need for infrastructure development, operating standards, market development, coordinated public education resulting in behavior change, and incentives to increase recycling and composting; (c) methods to partner with political subdivisions, private industry, and private, nonprofit organizations to most successfully address waste management issues in the state; (d) recommendations regarding existing funding sources and possible new revenue sources at the state and local level to address existing and emerging solid waste management issues; and (e) revisions to existing grant programs to address solid waste management issues in a proactive manner.

(2) The Director of Environmental Quality shall establish an advisory committee to advise the department regarding the study described in this section. The members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the director and shall include no more than nine members. The director shall designate a chairperson of the advisory committee. The members shall receive no compensation for their services.

(3) In addition to the advisory committee, the department may hire consultants and special experts to assist in the study described in this section. After completion of the study, the department shall submit a report, including recommendations, to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council and the chairpersons of the Natural Resources Committee, the Urban Affairs Committee, and the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature no later than December 15, 2017. The report shall be submitted electronically.

Sec. 3. Section 81-15,160, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

81-15,160 (1) The Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund is created. The department shall deduct from the fund amount sufficient to reimburse itself for its costs of administration of the fund. The fund shall be administered by the Department of Environmental Quality. The fund shall consist of proceeds from the fees imposed pursuant to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Act.

(2) The fund may be used for purposes which include, but are not limited to:

(a) Technical and financial assistance to political subdivisions for creation of recycling systems and for modification of present recycling systems;

(b) Recycling and waste reduction projects, including public education, planning, and technical assistance;

(c) Market development for recyclable materials separated by generators, including public education, planning, and technical assistance;

(d) Capital assistance for establishing private and public intermediate processing facilities for recyclable materials and facilities using recyclable materials in new products;

(e) Programs which develop and implement composting of yard waste and composting with sewage sludge;

(f) Technical assistance for waste reduction and waste exchange for waste generators;

(g) Programs to assist communities and counties to develop and implement household hazardous waste management programs;

(h) Capital assistance for establishing private and public facilities to manufacture combustible waste products and to incinerate combustible waste to generate and recover energy resources, except that no disbursements shall be made under this section for scrap tire processing related to tire-derived fuel; and

(i) Grants for reimbursement of costs to cities of the second class,

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## New Online Grant Application and Reporting

In 2014, applications for the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program and the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program were converted from a paper-based application to an online process. Applications are now filled out and submitted on the NDEQ website. In 2015, the reporting and reimbursement functions for these two grant programs were also converted to an online process.

As of 2017, two more applications are available online: Deconstruction of Abandoned Buildings and Cost-sharing for Civil Engineering Uses of Scrap Tires. These changes have resulted in time and material savings to both NDEQ and the grant program recipients. Online information can be found by going to NDEQ's web site at <http://deq.ne.gov>. Select the "Land and Waste" tab and then select the "Waste Planning and Aid Programs" tab.

## Equipment Redistribution

All grant funded equipment that has a value of \$1,000 or more is assigned an expected service life. An expected service life determines how long the grantee is responsible for reporting the equipment status to NDEQ and how long NDEQ maintains an ownership in the equipment. When grant-funded equipment with an existing expected service life is no longer being used, it is made available for redistribution to other users. A paper application is given to those that are interested in the equipment, the applications are scored, and the highest scored applicant is awarded the equipment. Contact Holly Adams to be added to the Equipment Redistribution contact list.

Two redistributions of equipment were made in 2017. A Reznor unit heater was redistributed from Keep Alliance Beautiful to the Village of Garland. A skid loader, shredder, trailer, composter, truck with a mixer, wheel loader, and 30 gallon and 60 gallon containers were redistributed from the Nebraska Farmers Union (Lincoln) to Cook Grow Sew (Lincoln).

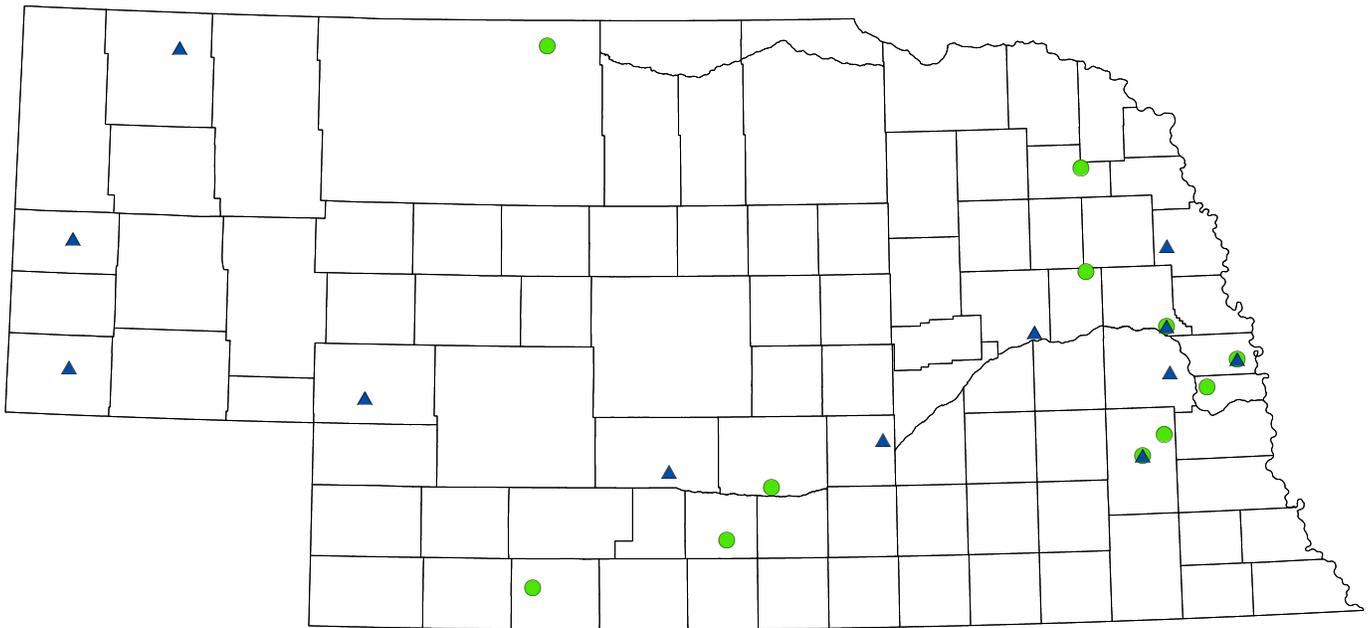
## Waste Reduction & Recycling Incentive Grants Program

In 1990, the Nebraska Legislature passed Legislative Bill 163, the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act, which created the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants Program. The Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund provides grants to private, non-profit, and government organizations to assist in financing sound integrated waste management programs and projects.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant's programs and projects include, but are not limited to: recycling systems; market development for recyclable materials; intermediate processing facilities and facilities using recyclable materials in new products; food waste composting; yard waste composting and composting with sewage sludge; waste reduction and waste exchange; household hazardous waste programs; electronic waste collections; pharmaceutical collections; deconstruction of abandoned buildings; the consolidation of solid waste disposal facilities and use of transfer stations; and incineration for energy recovery.

A portion of the grants is also obligated to fund scrap tire recycling or reduction projects and another portion of the grants is available to smaller cities and counties for abandoned building deconstruction.

# 2017 Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Awards



**Legend**

- ▲ Business Fee
- Disposal Fee

There are three sources of revenue for this program:

- A business fee on sales of tangible personal property, which generates about \$600,000 annually.
- A \$1 per tire fee on the retail sale of new tires in Nebraska, which generates about \$1.9 million annually;
- Fifty percent of the \$1.25 per ton disposal fee based on the tonnage of solid waste deposited in permitted landfills, which generates approximately \$1.2 million annually for grant awards.

## Summary of Awarded Activities

For 2017, NDEQ awarded \$4,333,457 for Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants to 130 projects. The breakdown is as follows:

Awarded Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grants July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018		
Business Fee	18 Grants	\$833,734
Disposal Fee	12 Grants	\$1,789,783
Scrap Tire	100 Grants	\$1,710,240
<b>Totals</b>	<b>130 Grants</b>	<b>\$4,333,757</b>

The following lists are the organizations, locations, and project summaries of those that were awarded.

## Business Fee

Eligible applicants: political subdivisions or other entity or organization, public, private or non-profit

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The Grand Island Area Clean Community System endeavors to help central Nebraska; including: Hall, Hamilton, Adams, Merrick, and Howard counties, develop and maintain an ecologically healthy environment. Since 2015, the Clean Community System has taken in over 310,422 pounds of hazardous waste, including 160,000 pounds in 2017 at the Betty Curtis Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Many of the products they take in are still in good usable condition. By utilizing the "Swap Shop", Clean Community System has reused 88,117 pounds since it opened. Of the remaining hazardous waste collected, about 50% is destroyed and the balance remains on the shelves for reuse.



### Grand Island Area Clean Community System's Swap Shop

Photos provided by  
The Grand Island Area  
Clean Community System



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**Firstar Fiber, Inc. (Omaha)** - \$150,000, funds toward recycling sorting equipment to increase processing from 30,000 to 60,000 tons annually

**Grand Island Area Clean Community System** - \$159,449, operational costs for the Betty Curtis Household Hazardous Waste facility and hold collection events in Grand Island

**Integrated Recycling LLC (Mead)** - \$49,750, funds toward a tractor to pull the current compost turner to process yard waste, cattle manure, & solids from an anaerobic digester

**Keep Chadron Beautiful** - \$46,729, collect cardboard and office paper from 50-60 locations in the City of Chadron

**Keep Columbus Beautiful** - \$8,025, host two electronic collection events for Platte County

**Keep Columbus Beautiful** - \$19,931, host one household hazardous waste collection event for Platte County

**Keep Fremont Beautiful, Inc.** - \$36,828, host one household hazardous waste collection event for Dodge County, plus two all-metal collections, an electronics drop site for TVs, and provide neighborhood cardboard recycling sites

**Keep Keith County Beautiful (Ogallala)** - \$6,455, host one household hazardous waste collection event for Keith, Arthur, Deuel, and Garden Counties

**Keep Kimball Beautiful** - \$16,810, collect recyclables from businesses and other locations in Kimball. Also host one household hazardous waste collection event for Kimball County

**Keep Nebraska Beautiful (Lincoln)** - \$73,910, fund three state-wide programs: Nebraska Materials Exchange; Nebraska Used Oil Collection; and Nebraska Food Waste Reduction Program

**Keep Scottsbluff Gering Beautiful** - \$18,000, host one household hazardous waste collection event for Scottsbluff, Terrytown, Gering, and the surrounding area.

**Lexington Area Solid Waste Agency** - \$34,470, host 6-8 household hazardous waste and electronic waste collection events

**Lincoln Public Schools** - \$32,354, funds to continue recycling at Lincoln Public Schools, serving over 40,000 students and 8,000 employees

**Nebraska Farmers Union (Lincoln)** - \$21,110, funds towards equipment and operating expenses for a commercial vermicomposting and composting operation in Lincoln

**Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council (Oakland)** - \$17,242, hold three household hazardous waste collection events in Blair, Hooper, and Walthill

**Open Door Mission (Omaha)** - \$10,000, funds toward 200 plastic gaylord containers for use in storing food items and donations

**WasteCap Nebraska (Lincoln)** - \$59,834, funding to create a hub and spoke pilot project for recycling in northeast Nebraska

**Western Resources Group (Ogallala)** - \$72,837, funding to help increase recycling efforts in rural communities

## Disposal Fee

Eligible applicants: counties, municipalities, and agencies

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The average US household generates more than 20 pounds of household hazardous waste a year and has as much as 100 pounds accumulated in their home. These materials can be toxic, flammable, corrosive and/or reactive and they can have a significant negative impact on the environment and public health. Red Willow County's Household Hazardous Waste Program holds collection events to provide residents of central and southwest Nebraska with a safe method to recycle or dispose of their household hazardous waste.



Photos provided by Red Willow County's Household Hazardous Waste Program and Keep Fremont Beautiful.



In 2017, the program held collection events in 44 Nebraska towns with over 230 volunteers. They collected 140,270 pounds of paint, 23,640 pounds of pesticide, 4,853 pounds of batteries, 3,594 pounds of acid and base, 5,163 gallons of oil, 1,025 gallons of antifreeze, over 14,000 light bulbs, and 122 pounds of mercury. They recycled a total of 6,770 pounds and the rest was shipped for proper disposal.

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**Educational Service Unit #11 (Holdrege)** - \$11,577, funding to remove chemicals from four high schools in Bertrand, Arapahoe, Minden, and Franklin

**Fremont, City of (Dept. of Utilities)** - \$478,000, funds toward a wood/tub grinder for the cities of Fremont and Blair to process trees infected with emerald ash borer. Wood chips to be used for composting, agricultural bedding, and mulch

**Gretna, City of** - \$85,267, funds toward a wood chipper, compact track loader, and utility vehicle, to trim trees & process downed limbs in parks and right-of-ways

**Howells, Village of** - \$9,490, funds to crush 2,000 tons of existing concrete piles. Aggregate will be used for road and alley maintenance, athletic field parking lots, and base for training facility for fire department

**Kearney, City of** - \$145,719, funds towards a horizontal cardboard baler

**Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department** - \$241,347, expenses for household hazardous waste disposal; plus branding & marketing for the new hazardous materials collection center. Hold 3 to 5 mobile household hazardous waste collections and 4 small business waste collections.

**Middle Niobrara NRD (Valentine)** - \$132,922, funds toward a compost turner to mix wood chips and animal manure, food/yard waste, or animal carcasses to study field application rates for best crop yields

**Omaha, City of (UnderTheSink Household Hazardous Waste Facility)** - \$331,250, funds to operate Omaha's Under the Sink household hazardous waste facility, serving Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Year two of five-year grant

**Red Willow County (McCook)** - \$214,273, hold 50 household hazardous waste collection events and have 14 disposal locations for collection for various Nebraska communities

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln** - \$99,820, funds for student interns to develop on-site technical assistance and education to five Nebraska manufacturers. Anticipate \$500,000 annual waste reduction cost savings

**Waverly, City of** - \$35,000, funds toward a brush chipper to turn wood waste into wood chips for landscaping at city parks, the cemetery, and for use by Waverly residents.

**Wayne, City of** - \$4,818, host one electronics collection event for citizens of the City of Wayne

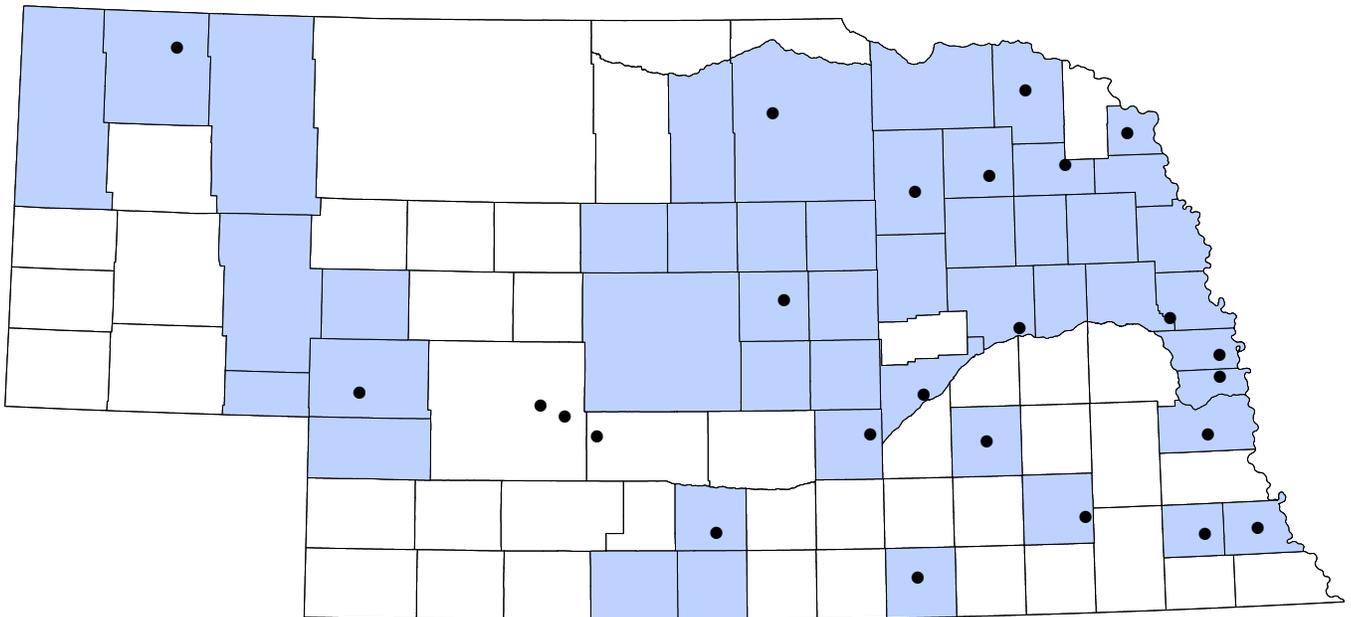
## Scrap Tire Grants

In 2017 NDEQ awarded \$1.71 million to support 100 tire recycling and cleanup projects across the state. The grants provided funding to clean up over 4,470 tons of scrap tires through scrap tire cleanup events. The grants are also used by counties, cities, schools, and organizations across the state to provide partial reimbursement of the cost of playground mulch, synthetic turf baseball, soccer, and football fields, athletic running tracks, and playground surfacing. These 25% reimbursement grant projects used over 1,564 tons of crumb rubber made from Nebraska tires. In addition, over 301 tons of rubber were used for rubber mulch on playground surfaces and some was used in manufacturing new products. Crumb rubber grants are reimbursed at 50%.

## Scrap Tire Cleanups

*Eligible applicants: political subdivisions.*

### 2017 Awarded Scrap Tire Cleanup Events



#### Legend

- Locations of Scrap Tire Cleanup Events
- Counties Covered by Scrap Tire Cleanup Events

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District scrap tire collection event was held on August 11, 2017 at the Washington Fairgrounds, located in Arlington, NE. At this event, 396 vehicles were unloaded in 5 hours by 36 volunteers, resulting in a total collection volume of 458.62 tons of tires, the equivalent of nearly 46,000 passenger tires! Tires were dropped off by residents from 10 counties in northeast Nebraska. The tires were removed from the Washington County Fairgrounds by Champlin Tire Recycling, Inc. of Concordia, KS. Champlin has several end uses for these tires. Some tires will be processed and mixed with plastic to manufacture park benches and picnic tables. Other uses include reclamation of tires meeting used tire specs for local market distribution, repair/retread of salvageable casings, separation and recycling of tubes, and manufacture of feed bunks. Any material not turned back into an end market is processed into a primary shred and stored in a state licensed monofill to be reclaimed as downstream markets develop.



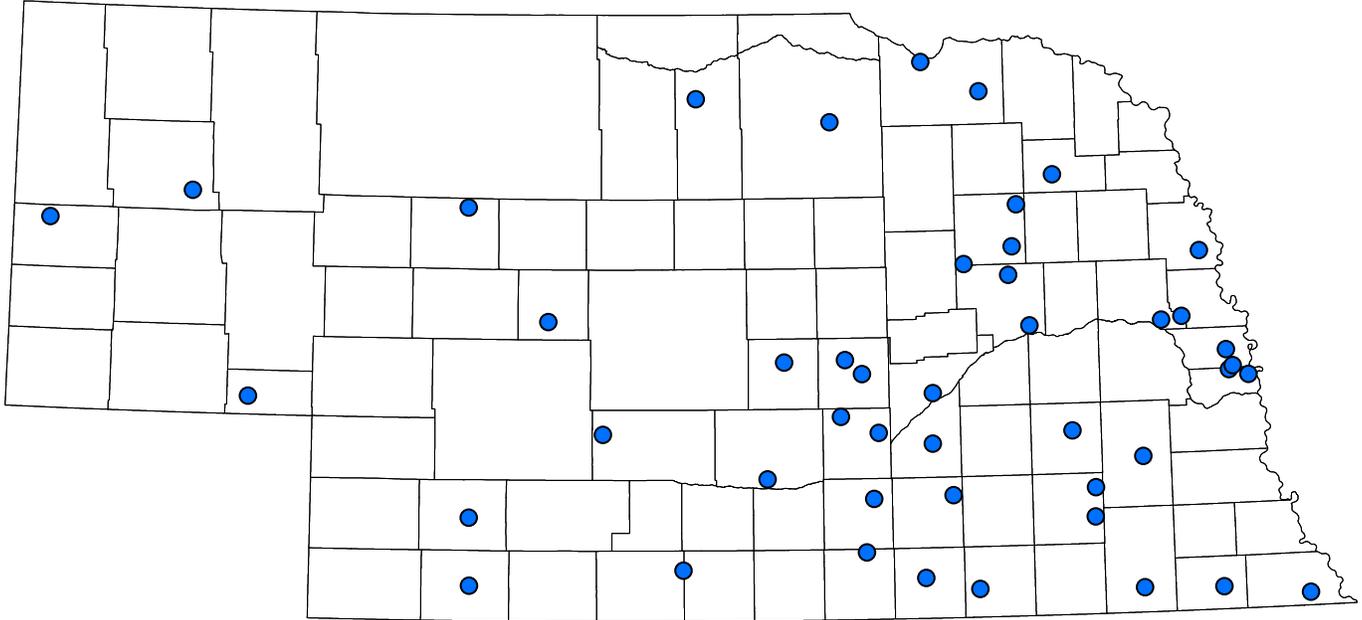
Photos provided by Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District

- Atkinson, City of** - \$20,204, for a 200-ton scrap tire cleanup for Holt County
- Brady, Village of** - \$14,921, for a 125-ton scrap tire cleanup for Brady, Maxwell, and Gothenburg
- Cass Co. Dept. of Roads (Weeping Water)** - \$12,690, for a 150-ton scrap tire cleanup for Cass County
- Cedar County (Hartington)** - \$25,946, for a 275-ton scrap tire cleanup for Cedar County
- Columbus, City of** - \$24,352, for a 250-ton scrap tire cleanup for Platte County
- Dakota Co. Road Dept. (Hubbard)** - \$9,977, for an 80-ton scrap tire cleanup for Dakota County
- Hall Co. Hwy. Dept. (Grand Island)** - \$13,476, for a 150-ton scrap tire cleanup for Hall County
- Holdrege, City of** - \$30,414, for a 350-ton scrap tire cleanup for Phelps, Harlan, and Furnas counties
- Johnson County (Tecumseh)** - \$6,302, for a 75-ton scrap tire cleanup for Johnson County
- Keith County (Ogallala)** - \$24,000, for a 200-ton scrap tire cleanup for Keith, Perkins, Arthur, Garden, and Deuel counties
- Lower Loup NRD (Ord)** - \$32,304, for a 350-ton scrap tire cleanup for 12 counties
- Merrick Co. Highway Dept. (Central City)** - \$8,976, for a 100-ton scrap tire cleanup for Merrick County
- Neligh, City of** - \$27,840, for a 300-ton scrap tire cleanup for Antelope County
- Nemaha County (Auburn)** - \$11,376, for a 125-ton scrap tire cleanup for Nemaha County
- Nuckolls County (Nelson)** - \$10,980, for a 120-ton scrap tire cleanup for Nuckolls County
- Omaha, City of** - \$25,264, for a 200-ton scrap tire cleanup for Douglas County
- Papio Missouri River NRD (Omaha)** - \$41,520, for a 435-ton scrap tire cleanup for ten counties
- Pierce County (Pierce)** - \$8,920, for a 100-ton scrap tire cleanup for five counties
- Saline County (Wilber)** - \$12,660, for a 150-ton scrap tire cleanup for Saline County
- Sarpy County (Papillion)** - \$14,301, for a 150-ton scrap tire cleanup for Sarpy County
- SWANN (Chadron)** - \$13,177, for an 85-ton scrap tire cleanup for Dawes, Sioux, and Box Butte Counties
- Wayne County (Wayne)** - \$18,264, for a 200-ton scrap tire cleanup for Wayne County
- York Area Solid Waste Agency** - \$26,440, for a 300-ton scrap tire cleanup for York County

## Scrap Tire partial reimbursement of tire-derived products and/or crumb rubber

Eligible applicants: political subdivisions or other entity or organization, public, private, or non-profit

### 2017 Awarded ScrapTire Partial Reimbursement of Tire-Derived Products and/or Crumb Rubber



**Legend**

- Scrap Tire Partial Reimbursements

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission received funding over a two-year period to reimburse 25% of the cost of 283 picnic tables made from recycled scrap tires and plastic. Each picnic table is made from approximately seven Nebraska passenger tires. The maintenance-free benches don't require staining or preservative treatment, and do not split, rot, or warp. The picnic tables are located in 31 state parks and recreation areas around Nebraska.



Photos provided by:  
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

**Arlington Public Schools** - \$17,125, reimburse 25% of athletic running track

**Aurora Public Schools** - \$7,801, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**Bellevue Public School District (Bellevue East High School)** - \$100,106, reimburse 25% of an artificial turf field; used 232,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Bellevue Public School District (Bellevue West High School)** - \$103,505, reimburse 25% of an artificial turf field; used 240,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Bloomfield Community Schools** - \$11,340, reimburse 50% of 81,900 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Bloomfield, City of** - \$1,175, reimburse 25% of five 6-foot and two 8-foot picnic tables

**Blue Hill Community Schools (Blue Hill)** - \$572, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**Central City Public Schools** - \$32,500, reimburse 25% of artificial turf field; used 331,137 pounds of crumb rubber

**Central Nebraska Community Action Partnership Inc. (Loup City)** - \$7,094, reimburse 50% of 27,300 pounds of rubber mulch; 25% poured-in-place playground surface and swing mat

**Centura Public Schools (Cairo)** - \$24,950, reimburse 25% of running track surfacing; used 79,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Christ Lutheran Little Lambs Preschool (Grand Island)** - \$822, reimburse 50% of 5,850 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Columbus Public Schools** - \$27,500, reimburse 25% of running track and runways; used 98,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Columbus Public Schools** - \$82,875, reimburse 25% of artificial turf field, used 332,627 pounds of crumb rubber

**Creek Valley Schools** - \$19,536, reimburse 25% of athletic track surface; used 80,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Crete Public Schools (Elementary)** - \$3,911, reimburse 25% poured-in-place playground surface

**Crete Public Schools (Intermediate)** - \$12,384, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**Crete Public Schools (Intermediate)** - \$28,750, reimburse 25% of athletic track surfacing; used 82,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School (Bellevue)** - \$3,681, reimburse 25% of runway track and high jump; used 8,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Daniel J. Gross Catholic High School (Bellevue)** - \$94,968, reimburse 25% of artificial turf; used 308,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Deshler Public Schools** - \$24,789, reimburse 25% of athletic track and runway; used 82,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Dillon Brothers Harley-Davidson (Omaha)** - \$2,130, reimburse 25% of 8 benches and 8 picnic tables

**Dreamland Daycare (Falls City)** - \$840, reimburse 50% of 6,000 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Falls City Arboretum** - \$2,638, reimburse 50% of 11,794 pounds of rubber mulch and reimburse 25% of 27 timbers

**Falls City, City of** - \$4,772, reimburse 50% of 34,000 pounds of rubber playground mulch for three parks

**Fremont Public Schools** - \$32,182, reimburse 25% of running track and runways; used 120,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Gingerbread House (Wilber)** - \$550, reimburse 50% of 2,000 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Gothenburg Public Schools** - \$21,807, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**Hastings Public Schools** - \$1,310, reimburse 50% of 18,095 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Hayes Center, Village of** - \$486, reimburse 25% of three 6-foot picnic tables

**Head Start Child and Family Development Program (Hastings)** - \$1,900, reimburse 50% of 8,730 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Higgins, Jennifer (Elba)** - \$905, reimburse 50% of 5,850 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Hitchcock County Agricultural Society (Trenton)** - \$1,473, reimburse 25% of eight 8-foot picnic tables

**Humphrey Public Schools** - \$20,125, reimburse 25% of playground turf; used 13,141 pounds of crumb rubber

**Kearney Public Schools** - \$10,798, reimburse 25% of additional runway and track surface; used 48,285 pounds of crumb rubber

**Keep Alliance Beautiful** - \$6,323, reimburse 50% of 39,000 pounds of rubber landscaping mulch

**Kidnect Child Development, LLC. (La Vista)** - \$4,070, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**Lincoln Salt Dogs** - \$20,911, reimburse 25% of artificial turf on baseball warning track; used 26,569 pounds of crumb rubber

**Little Bees Daycare (Bloomfield)** - \$860, reimburse 50% of 2,800 pounds of rubber playground mulch and reimburse 25% of 6 timbers

**Lower Platte NRD (Wahoo)** - \$13,475, reimburse 50% of 100,000 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Madison Elementary** - \$1,446, reimburse 50% for 10,335 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Mitchell Public Schools** - \$23,298, reimburse 25% of athletic track and runways; used 88,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Mullen, Village of** - \$7,360, reimburse 50% of 62,000 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Nebraska Game and Parks Commission** - \$18,580, reimburse 25% of 128 picnic tables for 12 state parks and recreation areas

**Noah's Ark Child Care and Preschool (Grand Island)** - \$3,580, reimburse 50% for 44,000 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Northeast Nebraska Shooting Association (Norfolk)** - \$240, reimburse 25% of three 8-foot benches

**Norfolk Public Schools** - \$2,125, reimburse 50% of 14,950 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**Omaha FC Properties (Omaha Sports Complex)** - \$71,208, reimburse 25% of an artificial turf field; used 214,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Omaha Public Schools (Pawnee Elementary)** - \$2,871, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**Omaha Public Schools (Gomez-Heritage Elementary)** - \$87, reimburse 25% of replacement of damaged rubber playground tiles

**Omaha Public Schools (Chandler View Elementary)** - \$6,610, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**Omaha Public Schools (Central High School)** - \$1,005, reimburse 50% 8,040 pounds of crumb rubber in running track

**Omaha Public Schools (Benson High School)** - \$68,970, reimburse 25% of artificial turf field; used 328,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Omaha Public Schools (Conestoga Elementary)** - \$4,184, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**Omaha Public Schools (Kellom Elementary)** - \$4,184, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**Omaha Public Schools (Springville Elementary)** - \$9,348, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**O'Neill Public Schools** - \$4,612, reimburse 25% of poured-in-place playground surface

**O'Neill Public Schools** - \$26,434, reimburse 25% of poured-in-place playground surface

**PaC 2 (Hastings)** - \$779, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**Paul Adams Elementary School (Lincoln)** - \$4,255, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**Pawnee City Public Schools** - \$31,750, reimburse 25% of athletic running track and runways

**Pedersen, Melodee (Girl Scouts, Columbus)** - \$169, reimburse 25% of an 8-foot picnic table

**Ralston Public Schools** - \$2,800, reimburse 50% of 15,600 pounds of rubber playground mulch for four schools

**Rock County Public Schools (Bassett)** - \$28,750, reimburse 25% of athletic track surface; used 82,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**Sandhill Plastics (Kearney)** - \$2,432, reimburse 50% of 41,651 pounds of crumb rubber to manufacture flooring

**Southern Valley Schools (Oxford)** - \$1,938, reimburse 50% of 8,428 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**St. John Lutheran School (Seward)** - \$18,773, reimburse 25% for rubber playground tile surface

**St. Paul Public School** - \$25,745, reimburse 25% of running track surfacing; used 92,000 pounds of crumb rubber

**St. Peter School (Lincoln)** - \$15,380, reimburse 25% of rubber playground tile surface

**St. William's Catholic Church (Niobrara)** - \$288, reimburse 25% of five 3-foot benches

**Stapleton Public Schools** - \$4,628, reimburse 25% of poured-in-place playground surface

**Sutton, City of** - \$16,059, reimburse 25% of poured-in-place playground surface

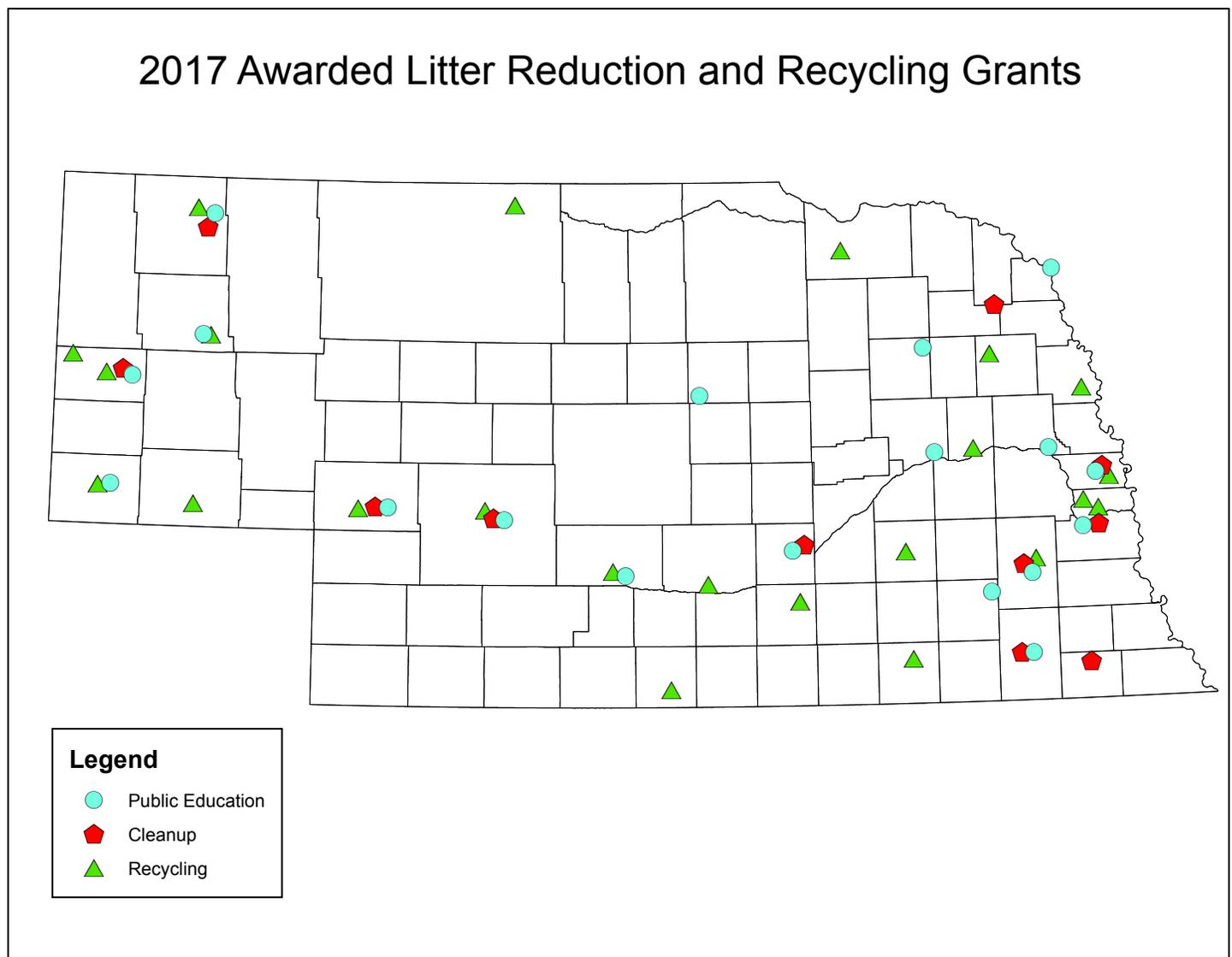
**Tekamah-Herman Schools** - \$2,230, reimburse 50% for 32,000 pounds of rubber playground mulch

**University of Nebraska Athletics (Lincoln)** - \$4,054, reimburse 25% of artificial turf for the Hibner soccer field sidelines; used 4,680 pounds of crumb rubber

**University of Nebraska Athletics (Lincoln)** - \$92,343, reimburse 25% of turf for the Hawks Champion Center; used 236,412 pounds of crumb rubber

**Wallin, Becky (Newman Grove)** - \$473, reimburse 50% of 6,758 pounds of rubber mulch

## Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program



The Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program has been in existence since 1979. Funds from this program are provided from an annual fee assessed to manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers having gross receipts of at least \$100,000 on products that commonly contribute to litter. The annual litter fee is imposed on products in the following categories: food for human consumption, beverages, soft drinks, carbonated water, liquor, wine, beer and other malt beverages; food for pet consumption; cigarettes and other tobacco products; household paper and household paper products; cleaning agents; and kitchen supplies. For manufacturers, the annual litter fee is \$175 for each million dollars of products manufactured. The fee for wholesalers and retailers is \$175 for each million dollars of sales made in the state. Approximately \$1.8 million is received annually.

The Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program’s purpose is to provide funds for cleanup and to support programs to reduce litter and provide public education and recycling. Grant funding is awarded to several types of programs, including non-profit groups, public, private entities, and over 20 Keep America Beautiful affiliates. Many of these programs utilize the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program funds to leverage additional dollars for a comprehensive, statewide approach to litter reduction and recycling.

### Summary of Awarded Activities

In 2017, NDEQ gave 57 Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program awards to organizations in Nebraska. The breakdown is as follows:

Awarded Litter Reduction and Recycling Grants January 1, 2017- December 31, 2017			
Public Education	45%	20 Grants	\$1,037,895
Cleanup	6%	11 Grants	\$126,986
Recycling	49%	25 Grants	\$1,326,206
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>57 Grants</b>	<b>\$2,491,087</b>

The following lists are the organizations, locations, and project summaries of those that were awarded.

#### Recycling

The recycling programs provide an alternative to the disposal of solid waste in Nebraska’s landfills. The programs recycle more than just aluminum, paper, glass and plastic. Materials such as electronic computer components, paint, aerosol cans, fertilizer, pesticides and household hazardous waste are collected and either reprocessed to be used again or are disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner. Recycling conserves our natural resources, landfill space and energy. Jobs are created and revenue is generated through the opportunities that recycling provides. Recycling efforts that promote the purchase of recycled content products continue to receive priority for funding. This support helps to “close the loop” and enhance the recycling efforts in Nebraska.

The Angels on Wheels collection events provide a way for people to dispose of their used electronics in a responsible manner. Angels on Wheels refurbishes certain collected items, such as computers, lawn mowers and appliances, which have useful life in them. The rest is recycled, with nothing going to the landfill. Collected items are processed through their vocational training and work experience program, where disadvantaged men and women learn workplace skills. Angels on Wheels held 24 electronic collection events in 2017. They collected 194,000 pounds of electronics, partnered with over 32 neighborhood associations and civic groups, had over 1,600 households participate, refurbished 300 collected items, and had 350 students receive vocational training.



Photos Provided by Angels on Wheels

**Alma, City of** - \$2,180, install fence to keep litter from blowing onto the hiking/biking trail and into Harlan County Lake

**Angels on Wheels (Omaha)** - \$82,200, hold 22 to 23 strategically located electronic collection events in the Metro Omaha area

**Four Corners Health Department (York)** - \$32,100, hold a one day household hazardous waste collection event in Seward and in York counties

**Gretna, City of** - \$43,455, purchase a brush chipper to produce chips for city landscaping

**Habitat for Humanity of Omaha Inc.** - \$53,934, purchase a box truck to increase ability to pick up donations for 2 ReStores in Omaha

**Keep Alliance Beautiful** - \$76,918, fund public education programs and operate the recycling center in Box Butte County

**Keep Chadron Beautiful** - \$7,100, conduct a one day electronic waste collection event

**Keep Keith County Beautiful (Ogallala)** - \$43,964, purchase four recycling containers to add to the collection system at Lake McConaughy

**Keep Kimball Beautiful** - \$73,710, operating expenses for the Kimball Recycling Center for Kimball County residents

**Keep Lexington Beautiful** - \$9,791, new signs for 4 recycling trailers, and new paint for 2 of them

**Keep North Platte and Lincoln County Beautiful** - \$34,428, administer programs to increase the collection of recyclables, e-waste, and household hazardous waste from Lincoln County

**Keep Schuyler Beautiful** - \$40,033, fund expenses to operate the Colfax County Recycling facility for residents of Schuyler and Colfax County

**Keep Scottsbluff Gering Beautiful** - \$47,530, fund 2 pharmaceutical take-back events and other recycling projects

**Keep Sidney Beautiful** - \$43,554, public education to reduce litter in the community and decrease recyclable items going to the landfill

**Middle Niobrara NRD (Valentine)** - \$100,215, trailer with spreader to increase amount of woody biomass chips applied on fields and tree rows. Tree removal will increase grazing & grassland, and reduce fire risk

**Morrill, Village of** - \$33,900, purchase a wood chipper to trim trees near power lines in Morrill. Mulch will be used for landscaping, golf courses & parks

**Nebraska Farmers Union (Lincoln)** - \$40,000, used tractor and mixer trailer to chop up larger pieces of organic material (corn cobs) to make larger amounts of compost

**Papio Missouri River NRD (Tekamah)** - \$24,500, conduct four electronic waste collection events to be held in: Washington, Burt, Thurston, and Dakota counties

**Soil Dynamics Composting Farm Inc. (Springfield)** - \$47,500, food waste garbage truck, to be modified to pull a garbage can washing system trailer to collect food waste from Louisville schools

**Solid Waste Management (Lincoln)** - \$170,710, fund 150' x 50' x 10" concrete pad and used excavator to better handle and divert 15-20,000 tons of asphalt roof shingles from the Bluff Road Landfill

**Trailblazer Resource Conservation and Development (Belvidere)** - \$25,035, hold 7 household hazardous waste collection events in 7 communities/counties over two weekends

**University of Nebraska at Kearney** - \$22,973, purchase a 2 cubic yard compactor and 40 cubic yard receiver box with hook to hold recyclables collected on the UNK campus

**Verdigre, Village of** - \$7,350, funds to manage the recycling program for Verdigre, and parts of Knox, Holt, and Boyd counties

**WasteCap Nebraska (Lincoln)** - \$125,790, Work with businesses and the community to provide educational outreach & technical assistance for zero-waste activities. Purchase two computers

**Wisner, City of** - \$51,188, fund 48' x 60' concrete slab, perimeter blocks, & fabric hoop building cover to store wood chips for gasifier equipment and recycled cardboard

**Woodwards Disposal Service, Inc. (Hastings)** - \$86,148, truck chassis with rear load and hopper to collect cardboard, newspaper, and office paper through curbside recycling and commercial pickups

## Public Education

The Public Education programs educate citizens in the areas of litter reduction, cleanup and recycling through a variety of individual and community activities. The citizens of Nebraska are cultivating a greater awareness of their impact on the environment through their purchasing and disposal decisions. The educational programs are an excellent means of providing information on proper waste disposal, recycling and available products that contain recycled material. Priority is given to programs that promote markets for recycled materials or purchasing products made from recycled materials.

In 2017, Keep Alliance Beautiful started two new education programs at Grandview Elementary School and Saint Agnes Academy in Alliance, Nebraska. The programs are called Black Ops and Black Belts.

Black Ops is an education program conducted through the 3rd grade classrooms. Environmental missions are given to the students to complete with their teachers. Some of the missions require the students to collect recyclable items from home. As the missions are completed, the students advance through different ranks in the military. They begin as privates and graduate from the program as colonels. The students receive dog tags made of recycled tires at the beginning of the program and t-shirts at the end.

The Black Belts education program is conducted through the 4th grade classrooms. The students pick up their missions at school, but complete them at home. Each take-home task also consists of a side-mission where the students can visit different community organizations, such as the museum, arboretum and art gallery, and complete extra tasks. As the students progress through the missions, they earn pieces of karate belts. They attach their pieces of belt to a black belts key chain that is displayed on their backpacks



Photos provided by:  
Keep Alliance Beautiful



**Grand Island Area Clean Community System** - \$65,682, fund a variety of programs to reduce litter and increase recycling in the community

**Keep Alliance Beautiful** - \$56,817, fund several community and school educational programs to increase recycling

**Keep Beatrice Beautiful, Inc.** - \$44,949, litter and recycling education via advertising and presentations to civic and community organizations and schools

**Keep Cass County Beautiful (Louisville)** - \$59,215, educate Cass County citizens and students about litter prevention, recycling, waste management, & composting. Continue "loan a bin" recycling program

**Keep Chadron Beautiful** - \$60,632, continuation of litter and recycling education programs for schools and participate in community events

**Keep Columbus Beautiful, Inc.** - \$29,082, public education and services to increase recycling and prevent litter through local schools and community events

**Keep Fremont Beautiful** - \$73,100, funds to provide comprehensive education programs for the community and from pre-K to college levels to reduce litter and increase recycling

**Keep Keith County Beautiful (Ogallala)** - \$84,210, educate residents and visitors on litter reduction and to increase recycling in Keith County. Expand to Arthur, Deuel, Grant, and Perkins Counties

**Keep Kimball Beautiful** - \$25,300, support of programs in Kimball schools and continue community-wide recycling education

**Keep Lexington Beautiful** - \$32,934, continue weekly recycling education program in 4 elementary schools and 1 middle school; tailored for diverse (40-country) student body

**Keep Norfolk Beautiful** - \$21,670, recycling education programs in the schools and community of Norfolk

**Keep North Platte and Lincoln County Beautiful** - \$85,909, continue community recycling programs and increase participation through education

**Keep Northeast Nebraska Beautiful (South Sioux City)** - \$63,264, public education in the community and schools to reduce litter, including waterway litter, and promote recycling

**Keep Omaha Beautiful** - \$71,000, conduct community outreach and classroom activities on recycling and litter reduction

**Keep Scottsbluff Gering Beautiful** - \$25,333, funding for community recycling/anti-littering programs for Scottsbluff and Gering

**Lincoln Children's Museum** - \$5,450, funding for "Green Halloween." Purchase recycled trick or treat bags and recycle bins for the Museum

**Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department** - \$121,366, education programs to encourage appropriate waste management practices throughout the community. Purchase 10 ashtray receptacles and 4 recycling containers

**Loup Basin RC&D Council/Keep Loup Basin Beautiful (Burwell)** - \$79,146, continuation of litter prevention and recycling education for schools and communities in a 9-county area

**Public Health Solutions (Crete)** - \$17,480, develop and publish 2,500 resource guides (recycling, waste disposal, material exchange, used donations) for 5 southeast Nebraska counties

**University of Nebraska-Lincoln** - \$15,356, establish "Improving Recycling and Composting Education through Participation" project. Purchase 5,000 aluminum water bottles & reusable bags for students attending 2 UNL programs

## Cleanup

The cleanup programs utilize Nebraska residents of all ages to pick up litter and debris along Nebraska's highways, waterways, recreation lands, urban areas and other public-use areas within the state. Not only are the public areas improved through the removal of litter and debris, but also much of the material collected during the cleanups is recycled. The recycling proceeds are often utilized to benefit the respective programs. The following list indicates the locations that received funds.

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In 2017, Keep North Platte and Lincoln County Beautiful staged cleanups on 275 miles of rural roadways, throughout Lincoln County. These cleanup operations involved 320 volunteers. A total of 5,144 pounds of litter was collected. All viable recyclables collected, such as aluminum and plastics, were recycled. Additionally, Keep North Platte and Lincoln County Beautiful had 467 volunteers clean up three waterways and two urban areas. They collected two tons of litter.



Photos provided by:  
Keep North Platte  
and  
Lincoln County  
Beautiful



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**ESU#1 (Wakefield)** - \$4,000, clean up 20 miles and 300 acres.

**Grand Island Area Clean Community System** - \$39,051, clean up 125 miles and 100 acres

**Keep Beatrice Beautiful, Inc.** - \$8,295, clean up 100 miles and 60 acres

**Keep Cass County Beautiful (Louisville)** - \$1,500, clean up 14 miles and 80 acres

**Keep Chadron Beautiful** - \$6,197, clean up 100 miles

**Keep Keith County Beautiful (Ogallala)** - \$3,000, clean up 60 miles

**Keep North Platte and Lincoln County Beautiful** - \$17,443, clean up 320 miles.

**Keep Omaha Beautiful** - \$18,000, online follow-up survey of volunteers. Clean up 20 miles.

**Keep Scottsbluff Gering Beautiful** - \$10,000, clean up 100 miles

**Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department** - \$19,000, clean up 240 miles and 700 acres

## Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program

The Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup Program, established in 1997, is a cleanup program that provides funding assistance to political subdivisions for the cleanup of solid waste disposed along public roadways or ditches. Through this program, items such as household waste, white goods, construction and demolition waste, tires, furniture, yard waste, and some hazardous wastes are removed from the illegal site and disposed in a permitted facility or recycled.

Funding for this program is limited to five percent of the total revenue from the disposal fee collected from landfills in the preceding fiscal year. NDEQ encourages municipalities, counties, and other political subdivisions to submit applications for the reimbursement of cleanup efforts.

### Summary of Awarded Cleanups

In 2017, the program provided 36 grants, totaling \$75,599.12. In FY2017, funds were provided to:

Adams County	1 Cleanup	\$5,103.87
Franklin County	1 Cleanup	\$68.78
Harlan County	1 Cleanup	\$7,312.20
Lincoln, City of	13 Cleanups	\$28,913.42
Lancaster County	2 Cleanups	\$2,234.96
Nebraska City, City of	1 Cleanup	\$22,531.90
Omaha, City of	3 Cleanups	\$6,221.84
Riverside Township	3 Cleanups	\$742.85
Seward County	6 Cleanups	\$1,054.45
Washington County	5 Cleanups	\$1,414.85
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36 Cleanups</b>	<b>\$75,599.12</b>

There were two large cleanups in 2017. One was in the Nebraska City area, which resulted in a cleanup that took several days. It was discovered through the NDEQ complaint program. The city coordinated the cleanup with local contractors and today the site has been restored. The total request for reimbursement through the Illegal Dumpsite Cleanup fund for this cleanup was \$22,531.90.

The second was along a bridge just west of Lincoln on NW 98th Street, involving several hundred tires that had been illegally dumped off the roadway next to the bridge. The City of Lincoln hired a contractor for this cleanup. The final weight of the tires was 13.46 tons, and the cost was \$10,818.14.



## Landfill Disposal Fee Rebate Program

The Landfill Disposal Fee Rebate Program was created as an incentive to political subdivisions to support and encourage the purchase of products, materials, or supplies that are manufactured or produced from recycled material. Funding for the program is from the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund.

Under the program, which was created in 1994, any municipality or county may apply for a rebate if they have a written purchasing policy requiring a preference for purchasing products, materials or supplies that are manufactured or produced from recycled material. If the policy is approved by NDEQ, the applicant may receive a 10-cent rebate from the \$1.25 per ton disposal fee. Rebates are provided no more than quarterly and no less than annually.

In 2014, NDEQ offered to provide letters and forms to the participants through email instead of the postal service. In 2017, eight of the eleven participants chose this option, furthering our waste reduction efforts and increasing efficiency.

### Summary of Awarded Rebates

In FY2017, the program provided \$105,270 to five counties and six cities participating in the program. Rebates were provided to:

Buffalo County	\$5,310
Butler County	\$3,548
David City, City of	\$220
Grant, City of	\$112
Jefferson County	\$565
Lincoln, City of	\$32,732
North Platte, City of	\$4,003
Omaha, City of	\$54,621
Saline County	\$2,411
Seward County	\$1,166
South Sioux City, City of	\$582
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$105,270</b>

# NEBRASKA

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