

KCCB gears up for back to back to back weekends of events to celebrate Earth Day!

Our mission: to inspire and educate individuals to take daily actions to improve and beautify their community environment.

KCCB Board of Directors
 President: Steve Dodd
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 Members: Karin Forrest, Debbie Vidlak, Lois Froistad
 Exec. Director: Dana Stahl
Presentations: Contact us for free environmental programs for youth groups, schools or community organizations.

Financing is provided by the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program, Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy, Cass County, local business partners and members. KCCB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Close the loop...Buy recycled!



“Thank You”
2023 KCCB Partners

American Exchange Bank,
 Beaver Lake Association,
 Citizen’s State Bank,
 City of Louisville,
 City of Weeping Water,
 Cornerstone Bank,
 Elmwood-Murdock Merchants
 Association (EMMA),
 First State Bank
 Hillside Solutions composting
 Leibman Financial Services,
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 Nutrien Corporation,
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 Pinnacle Bank, Louisville,
 Plattsmouth Animal Hospital,
 Plattsmouth Chamber,
 Plattsmouth Hy-Vee,
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 Scatter Joy Acres
 SCC Learning Center at
 Plattsmouth,
 State Farm Insurance
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 The JunKtion
 Union United, Inc.,
 Village of Cedar Creek,
 Village of Eagle,
 Village of Elmwood,
 Village of Manley,
 Village of Murray,
 Village of Union,
 Weeping Water Chamber

In celebration of KCCB’s favorite holiday, we have an action packed month of April planned. April 15th will kick off our events with a clothing swap at Conestoga elementary school from 9-12. We will be collecting clothes April 4-14 before the event at Conestoga Elementary school. Items can be dropped off during school hours [7:30-3:30] in the drop box located at the front entrance.

April 22nd we will host our first electronic recycling event of the year in Weeping Water from 9-12. This year, we are adding two new items for collection: glass and EPS [Expanded Polystyrene]. We are excited to add these two items for collection.

Whooo’s looking to recycle their Styrofoam™ (EPS)?

EPS: Expandable Polystyrene
 It's the hard white packaging foam used to transport goods like televisions, appliances, glass items, temperature sensitive medications and perishables

If it *BENDS*, it's *NOT* our friend!

- No Tape
- No Food Containers
- No Labels
- No Packing Peanuts
- No Flexible Foam
- No Foam Sheets



What happens to my recycled #6 EPS foam?

It is recycled into construction material, surfboards, picture frames, packaging and so much more!

If you can't make it to our drop off event, you can recycle 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at:



4930 BATTLEFIELD DR

Information from Plastilite about EPS recycling.

Makovicka Physical Therapy shares their Adopt-A-Spot testimony and encourages others to join in with Keep Cass County Beautiful!

For the past three years, Makovicka Physical Therapy has been partnering with Keep Cass County Beautiful with our Adopt-a-Spot program. Kathy Byrnes, director of business development at Makovicka states, “It’s such an easy way for anyone to contribute in a small way but for a big impact when combined. You can do a cleanup over lunch, when you have a few extra minutes or really anytime. It gets our employees out of the office, into fresh air and it’s something that we all feel good about doing.” Byrnes noted that many times during a cleanup, people will stop and ask us what we’re doing and it’s a chance to talk to them about KCCB. “We love partnering with KCCB to make a difference as we’re always looking for ways to get involved in our local community,” Byrnes explains. Makovicka also volunteers with the chamber and directs a Fit Club program at St. Johns in which she states that nearly every student participates. The program has been a huge success to get kids moving. Byrnes hopes to inspire other Cass County businesses and residents to get involved in the community in some meaningful way. “We all can do something,” she states.



Makovicka Physical Therapy employees pictured above after their annual Adopt-a-Spot cleanup.



Sustainability
Spotlight
Feature

Plattsmouth Library Director, Karen Mier, an
eco- hero in the Plattsmouth community

by Dana Stahl, Director

Since Karen Mier accepted the position of the Plattsmouth Library Director in 2011, she has been reducing and recycling. “No matter what you teach, if you’re not practicing it, people aren’t going to learn it,” she states. For Karen, recycling has always been something she does. At her nearby home of Bellevue, recycling is available for everyone so it’s a long-time habit that she and her family have formed.

Mier has been recycling cans, bottles and paper brought in from the public for years. She has recycling bins at the library, and she takes recyclables home to recycle. She saves the cans as an on-going fundraiser. Since the program’s inception, she has recycled over 40,000 cans and raised over \$2,000 for educational programs and improvements at the library. A few years ago, they purchased a laser cutter and this year, they are using the funds for outdoor musical instruments.

In addition to collecting common recyclables, the library has partnered with Keep Cass County Beautiful to collect used cell phones, batteries, and other small electronics for recycling. They also collect Crayola markers, ink cartridges and have recycled incandescent lights as well. The library promotes recycling by sharing events such as cleanups, community recycling events and other information related to reducing, reusing, and recycling. Recently, the Plattsmouth library partnered with KCCB for our new Library Litter Kit program in which any Cass County resident can visit the library to check out a bucket which contains everything needed for a cleanup. You don’t even need a library card to check out a bucket!



Library supervisor, Kenneth Turner poses for a picture with the library litter kit (LLK).

At the annual book sale, the library promotes “reuse” by selling books to the public for very reasonable prices so they can be reread and enjoyed. Books not sold are sent to other organizations that can utilize them, recycled, and at times shipped overseas for those serving abroad in the military to enjoy. “We try to make sure that very little from our library ends up in the landfill. We reduce, reuse, and recycle all that we can,” Mier states. She believes that far too much ends up in landfills that can serve another purpose or be recycled. She hopes that leading by example, she can encourage and inspire others to follow suit. Well done Karen and the Plattsmouth Public Library! We are so thankful for all that you do in our community.



KCCB launches a new ambassador program

In an effort to encourage more individuals to get involved, KCCB has developed a new ambassador program! You can become an ambassador by participating in two litter cleanups a year, volunteering 4 additional hours at any of our events or even volunteering at home (contact us for suggestions!) and completing a few other small eco-tasks. Upon completion of the ambassador program, you will be recognized at our annual appreciation event and each ambassador will receive their choice of a free Cass County experience such as admission to the Safari park, a ticket to The Lofte, a day pass to your favorite Cass County Park and more! Visit keepcasscountybeautiful.org for more information or give us a call!



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KCCB Highlights for the month of March!

Our first glass recycling collection was a huge success with over 1,200lbs of glass recycled. We were thrilled with the outcome. Despite cold and rainy weather, we still had several people stop by to recycle their glass. Collected glass is crushed and sold to Redimix for concrete or asphalt. Glass recycling reduces landfill waste, provides a valuable material for reuse and reduces carbon emissions needed to haul the additional weight to landfills. We hope you’ll take advantage of our upcoming glass recycling events.



Glass collected from the March 11th event.



Shout out for our first litter cleanup of the year. Left to right, Quinton Minahan, Ella and Ashton Carpenter. Thank you!