

KEEP AMERICA REAUTIFUL AFFILIATE

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

KCCB Board of Directors

President: Debbie Vidlak Vice President: Dana Stahl Secretary: Richard Yoder Treasurer: Lois Froistad Members: John Baroni, Rachel Brandenburg, Roger Behrns, Karin Forrest, Terry Lorensen Exec. Director: Linda Behrns Assist, 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 Coun-ty, local business partners and members. KCCB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization profit organization.

NEBRASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Close the loop...Buy recycled!



"Thank You" 2021 KCCB Partners

American Exchange Bank, Ash Grove Cement Company, Beaver Lake Association. Bloom Where You're Planted, Cass County, Cass County Ag Society, Citizen's State Bank, City of Louisville, City of Weeping Water, Cottage Refunk, Dana Stahl Realty, Elmwood-Murdock Merchants Association (EMMA), Fred Eriksen, Kirk & Lois Froistad, Frontier Cooperative, Dan & Dee Henry, John's Appliance, Leibman Financial Services, Louisville B.U.I.L.D.. Janet McCartney, Midwest Insurance Exchange, Nutrien Corporation, OPPD, Papillion Sanitation, Pinnacle Bank, Louisville, Plattsmouth Animal Hospital, Plattsmouth Chamber, Plattsmouth Hy-Vee, Marty & Joan Rowell, SCC Learning Center at Plattsmouth, Soil Dynamics Compost Farm, Stock Seed Farms, Inc. T.E.A.M. CHI Health Midlands. Union United, Inc. Village of Cedar Creek, Village of Eagle, Village of Elmwood, Village of Manley,

Village of Murray,

Village of Union, Wilbur-Ellis Agribusiness

Keep Cass County "Beautiful News"

Quarterly Newsletter * Spring 3/19/2021 #25* www.keepcasscountybeautiful.org



We know it's been a long winter and you're tired of staying home due to COVID restrictions, so why not Adopt-a-Spot? It's as easy

- 1. Select a street, trail, roadway or park in Cass
- 2. Commit to picking up litter at your spot at least twice a year—spring and fall (or more if vou can).
- 3. Report your hours and litter amounts to KCCB either by messaging 402.949.0874 or by completing our *Adopt-a-Spot* online Send us any pictures you might have of your spot, too.

With fewer cleanups last year, there's lots of litter along our roadways. This is an opportunity to become involved and take pride in our community. When you see litter, pick it up. Secure and cover loads in vehicles so items don't blow out and become litter. Carry a litter bag of some kind in your vehicle and use it. Litter can be dangerous to wildlife and humans, it's ugly and costs tax payers millions of dollars to clean up. It's everyone's responsibility to keep our county, state and nation clean and beautiful. Every piece of litter collected and properly disposed of makes a difference.



In 1998, the GAC began as a litter cleanup initiative of Keep America Beautiful that was designed to improve communities. This year GAC events will take place from March 20-June 20 on a smaller scale adhering to local COVID guidelines. Our ultimate goal is to keep all of our volunteers safe.

KCCB will partner with local schools, 4-H groups, Scouts and community organizations to plan volunteer events that beautify parks, reduce waste, increase recycling and remove litter. Contact us for trash bags, safety vests, gloves and other litter cleanup supplies for a Great American Cleanup event in your neighborhood. KCCB will award organizations up to \$50 per mile and \$10 per acre for cleaning up litter in public areas along streets, curbs, alleys and sidewalks at schools, parks and in rural areas including county and country roads. Unfortunately, we cannot fund Adopt a Highway events.

Funding for this program is limited and provided by a small grant from the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy. Applications and cleanup resources can be found at keepcasscountybeautiful.com/ or email da@keepcasscountybeautiful.com for details.



A Household Hazardous Waste event will be scheduled in the county this year-possibly this spring. Stay tuned to our Facebook, webpage and local media for details, dates and locations. The collection will include house and garden chemicals, old paint, used motor oil, small quantities of farm chemicals, uand more. There will be no used tire collection this year!

KCCB Spring Electronic & Appliance Recycling Events

April 24 - Weeping Water; 503 West H St. (west entrance @ ballfield); from 9:00 - noon June 12 - Eagle; 727 South 1st St. (village office pkg. lot); from 9:00 - noon

Items accepted at no charge include computers, flat screen monitors, laptops, tablets, key boards and mice, printers, copiers, fax machines, cell phones, vacuum cleaners, stereos, DVD players, microwaves, small & large appliances, power tools, and anything with a battery or cord.

Limit of 2 large appliances per household, please!

The following items will have an environmental fee: alkaline batteries: \$1.50 per pound; all styles of Televisions (including flat screens) and CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) items: \$20 up to 20 inch; \$30 up to 30 inch; \$40 up to 40 inch, \$50 up to 50 inch, and so forth. KCCB will pay half of the environmental fee of one item per household. If you're a KCCB member, one item with a fee is FREE. For everyone's safety, we ask you to social distance, stay in your vehicle and wear a mask during any transaction.



The events are made possible by NDEE, Cass County, City of Weeping Water, Village of Eagle, Cross Electronic Recycling and KCCB. The collections are open to Cass County residents only; no commercial quantities. Two more collection events will be held in the fall. Locations and dates TBD. Celebrate Earth Day and protect the environment by recycling your electronics.

Not A KCCB Member? Click join today and enjoy a savings if you have a television to recycle. The membership link can be also be found on our website. Your financial support helps fund education programs and events for Cass County residents.



Keep Nebraska Beautiful Affiliates will be celebrating yearlong education and events that begin April 30 and culminate April 29, 2022, the 150th anniversary of Arbor Day. J. Sterling Morton of

Nebraska City was an advocate for planting trees and started the tree planting holiday in 1872. There will be an Arbor Day Parade in Nebraska City at 1:00 PM on May 1 along with other events that weekend. Send us a picture of your favor-



ite tree or if you're planting a tree this year. Through our media outlets, we'd like to share 150 tree plantings in Cass County during the yearlong celebration. Plant a tree for the future!

Small Changes, Big Impact by Dana Stahl, Assistant Director

It all started when I enrolled in an environmental science class in college. I remember the passion in my professor's voice as she lectured on the state of our environment due to ramifications of human impact on our world. I was shocked that at 20 years old, I was left unaware of these issues. Growing up in a small rural farming community in Northern Michigan, I was sadly uneducated about environmental concerns. Little did I know, this one class would change the direction of my life and have a greater impact than I could have imagined. The impression that my professor left on me was deep and lasting. I decided to make some lifestyle changes to decrease my personal impact on the environment starting right then and there. As a first step, I immediately started by implementing



recycling in my household. Shortly after, I started bringing recyclables home from work to add to my collection of recyclables. Then I encouraged my friends to start recycling too. Each year, I would make small changes such as bringing my own reusable bags to the supermarket, saying no to plastic straws, bringing my own carry out containers to restaurants, and walking when I could, instead of driving. When opportunities present themselves, I love to share about my journey to living a "more green" life.

My pursuit of living a more eco- friendly lifestyle was the impetus for applying for a position in conservation 8 years ago. I delighted in working with farmers implementing cost share projects to mitigate their impact on the environment and educating adults; but mostly, teaching thousands of youth over the years to love and cherish our natural resources, reduce what they use, and most importantly, that the world is interconnected. Two years ago, we moved to Nebraska and through a series of events, I became assistant director of KCCB. Oddly enough, it was again my passion for conservation that led me to the director of KCCB at a church event and discovering Keep America Beautiful.

In addition to my own personal journey with conservation, there are numerous world renowned environmental advocates of past and present who because of their seemingly small actions have changed the world in a big way. Rachel Carson saved many bird species from the brink of extinction through her book *Silent Spring* by noting the destruction that the pesticide DDT was causing. Chad Pregracke formed and currently maintains one of the greatest cleanups of the Missouri River unaided by federal funds. Boyan Slat, a teenager from the Netherlands, after seeing vast amounts of plastic waste in the ocean while vacationing Greece, began an unprecedented ocean cleanup.

Soon KCCB will kick off our spring guest reader program in which we will educate hundreds of students in Cass County about the 5 R's "refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle and rot" and how to be good stewards of the earth. It is my hope that we instill in these children a love of the environment and a passion to care for it and that years later, we might hear a story similar to mine. However, if the only thing we accomplish is to teach children how to better care for the world by being good stewards of the earth, we'll have reached our biggest goal.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; Indeed, It's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead



Most Cass County communities have some type of spring cleanup day for large items that don't fit in the trash can. Here's a list of those scheduled as of this writing. Some events require proof of residency such as a city bill for participation. Fees apply at some collections.

Louisville – April 24; 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Plattsmouth – May 1 -2; 8:00 am – 6:00 pm; flier with details at Plattsmouth.org

Weeping Water – April 24; 9:00 – noon

Union - April 17 -18



This year's Earth Day Theme is "Restore Our Earth." Here are some simple things you can do:

- Conduct a waste audit of your trash; practice the 3Rs
- Conserve water; choose pollution free transportation
- Pick up litter; always carry a litter bag in your vehicle
- Plant a tree; start a vegetable garden; shop wisely
- Choose sustainable products; start composting
- Organize your refrigerator; Avoid food waste



Keep Cass County Beautiful was recently awarded the 2020 President's Circle Award from Keep America Beautiful. The award recognizes exemplary performance by certified affiliates of Keep America Beautiful in creating clean, green and beautiful communities through completion of several programs. KAB grants are available to affiliates who complete KAB's standards of merit. We are honored to receive this award that recognizes and includes the work and commitment of our board, members and many local volunteers.

Resources of Interest:

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Are you throwing away things that could be recycled or reused? Here's a resource that will bring new life to your trash. https://www.recycling-revolution.com/reuse-trash-ideas.html

7 takeaways on organics recycling trends from COMPOST2021

The U.S. Composting Council event featured perspectives on contamination reduction, market development, climate change and more from WeCare Denali, Waste Management, Recology and Atlas Organics. https://www.wastedive.com/news/7-takeaways-compost-organics-recycling-climate/594428/

How to Quit Plastics Workbook by Eco-Cycle

Here's a step-by-step guide that shows you how to audit your waste and recycling, focus on reducing or replacing, build your own Zero Waste kit, as well as some fun and easy DIY recipes for items that are tricky to find without plastic packaging!

https://www.ecocycle.org/files/pdfs/Campaigns/plastics/Workbook_How-to-Quit-Plastics.pdf?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=9486ac07-5ee7-41f2-95d8-1d5be5cd220f



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