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

KCCB Board of Directors
 President: Elizabeth Umshler
 Vice President: Lois Froistad
 Secretary: Debbie Vidlak
 Treasurer: Rachel Brandenburg
 Members: Karin Forrest, Jim Peterson, Steve Dodd
 Exec. Director: Dana Stahl
 Assistant Director: Cindy Cruse

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.



Close the loop...Buy recycled!



"Thank You"
2024 KCCB Partners

American Exchange Bank,
 3B Homestead
 Beaver Lake Association,
 Black Hills Energy
 DC's Waterhole
 Citizen's State Bank,
 City of Louisville,
 City of Weeping Water,
 Cornerstone Bank,
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 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
 Witte Physical Therapy
 3B Homestead

Do you love KCCB? Looking for volunteer opportunities?

Sign up to help us this year at the fair.

For the past 10 years, KCCB has championed recycling and reducing at the at the Cass County Fair providing over 40 recycling receptables and for the first time last year, adding compost bins. Over 3,000lbs was recycled just last year! All this work takes a lot of time and coordination. Do you have an hour to spare?

Sign up to help us at the fair this year. Go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BACA629ABFAC07-50114527-cass>

Or contact Dana
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for more info. No amount of time is too small. Let's Keep Cass County Beautiful, together!



Elmwood Murdock receives a free recycled park bench for recycling 1,000lbs of plastic!

Last fall, Elmwood Murdock schools took on the challenge to collect and recycle 1,000lbs of plastic film with the goal to earn a free, 100% recycled park bench for their community park and increase recycling. This spring, they met their goal! KCCB assisted in this project by picking up the plastic from the schools and local thrift store- Bits and Pieces and delivering materials to Hy-Vee to be recycled.



Elmwood Murdock Students dedicate the bench to the park!



Upon reaching their goal of 1,000lbs, FCCLA students picked out the park bench and assembled it. Students presented their project at a district competition and won gold medal and moved on to the state competition where they again placed and are now advancing to the National competition in Seattle, Washington! We wish them the best of luck and commend them for their hard work on this project.

4th Annual Trash to Treasure Workshop



thrifed items and other "leftover" household items to make pollinator puddles. Each attendee got to take home pollinator wildflowers to plant as well. This event is held annually the first Wednesday in June.

This years theme for Trash to Treasure was pollinators! The event was hosted at the Weeping Water Extension office and Stephanie Wolcott with Simply Home Sweet Home taught the class this year. There were 10 attendees ranging from 3-13 years. Items used included recycled milk jugs,



All ages were excited to create a healthy pollinator habitat out of recycled items.

Sewing for Sustainability



In the heart of Cass County, a small but impactful initiative is taking root, spear-headed by dedicated volunteers who are turning ordinary grain bags into sturdy, reusable grocery bags. What started as a chance discovery at a craft show has blossomed into a community-driven effort led by Renee Bauermeister and her family, to assist the efforts of Keep Cass County Beautiful.



Step 1: Renee starts the process by washing the bags.

Executive Director Dana Stahl stumbled upon the idea while perusing a craft show, where she encountered ingeniously repurposed grain bags transformed into reusable totes. Seeing the potential to tackle plastic waste in the community, Dana envisioned a project for KCCB. The challenge? Each bag required thorough cleaning, cutting, and sewing—a time-intensive process that seemed daunting for volunteers.



Step 2: Turn the bag inside out and begin measuring and cutting each bag.



Step 3: Darlene begins sewing the bag.

Undeterred, Stahl reached out to her local network, starting with Murray Presbyterian Church, where a sewing day was organized. Despite the success of creating eight bags, the sheer effort required highlighted the need for more sustained support. A social media call for volunteers proved pivotal when Renee stepped forward, along with her brother Scott Cartmill and sister-in-law Darlene Holmes.

Three years later, their family remains the backbone of the initiative, tirelessly dedicating hours to craft reusable bags. “Renee always greets me with a smile on her face and a cheerful attitude handing off dozens of bags each time I stop by to deliver more supplies.” Stahl states. With their consistent output—now totaling around 300 bags—this grassroots effort has made a tangible impact across Cass County.

Addressing Plastic Pollution

Bags are distributed throughout the county, aiming to reduce the prevalent use of single-use plastic bags. Plastic bags, a commonly littered item in Cass County, take at least 20+ years to biodegrade. By promoting reusable alternatives, KCCB and its volunteers are striving to cut plastic bag usage by 25% within five years—a testament to their commitment to sustainability.

Join The Movement!

- Interested in joining the cause? Here are some simple steps you can take to reduce plastic waste:
- Keep Reusable Bags Handy:** Always carry reusable bags when shopping, say “No thank you” when offered a plastic bag.
 - Skip Plastic Produce Bags:** Use mesh bags or skip bags altogether for produce (yes you can absolutely do this!).
 - Bring Your Own Container:** Opt for reusable containers for takeout or leftovers. Say no to single use clamshells that last forever.
 - Choose Plastic-Free Options:** Request items to be packaged without plastic whenever possible.

Through the dedication of volunteers like Renee, Scott and Darlene, supported by community organizations like KCCB, Cass County is making strides towards a greener future. Their efforts not only address environmental challenges but also inspire others to rethink their daily habits. By embracing reusable solutions, we can all contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable world.



Step 4: Scott sews the handles on each bag.



The finished product is ready to distribute in Cass County!